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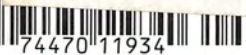
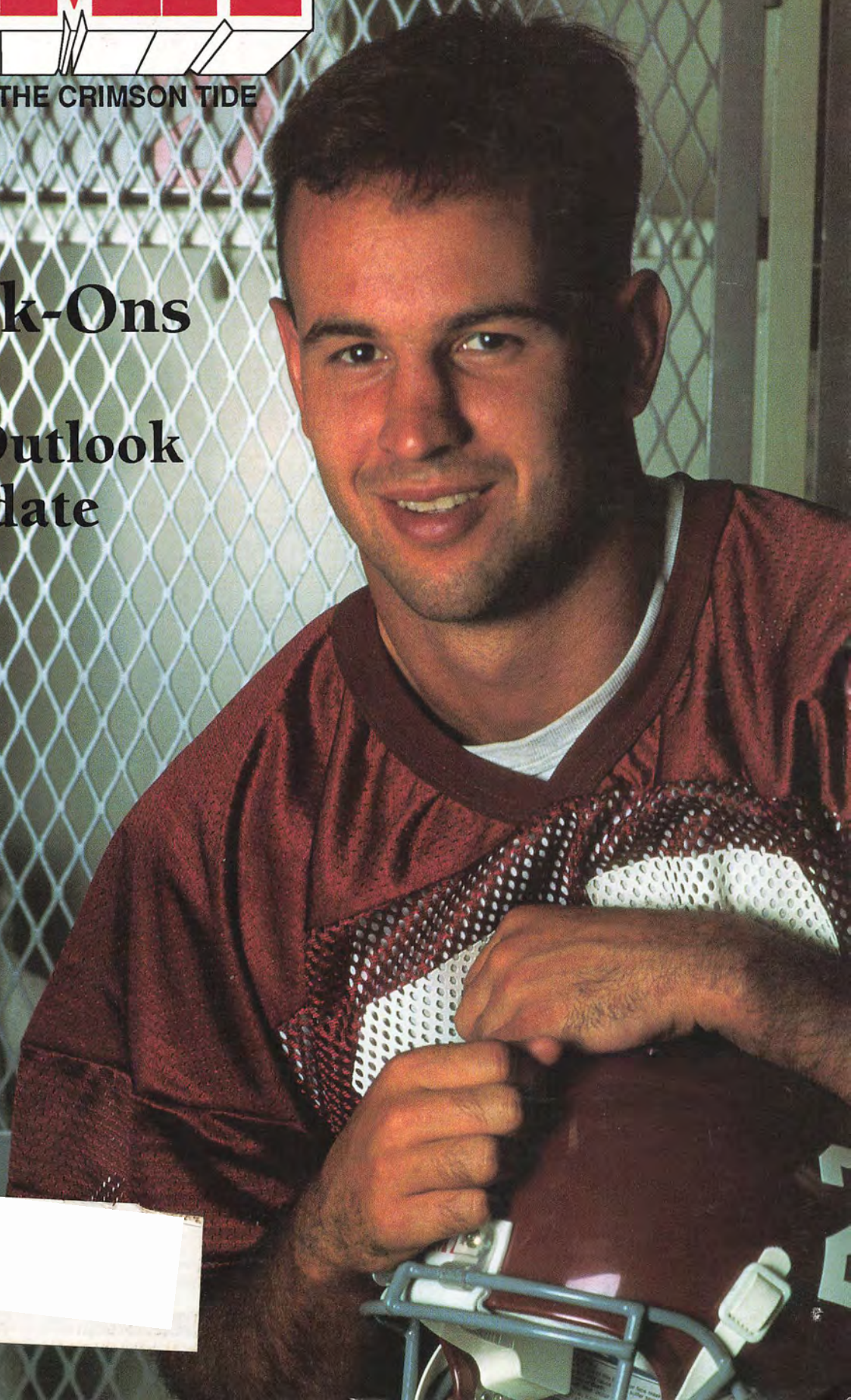
SEPTEMBER, 1995  
VOLUME 17, NUMBER 7

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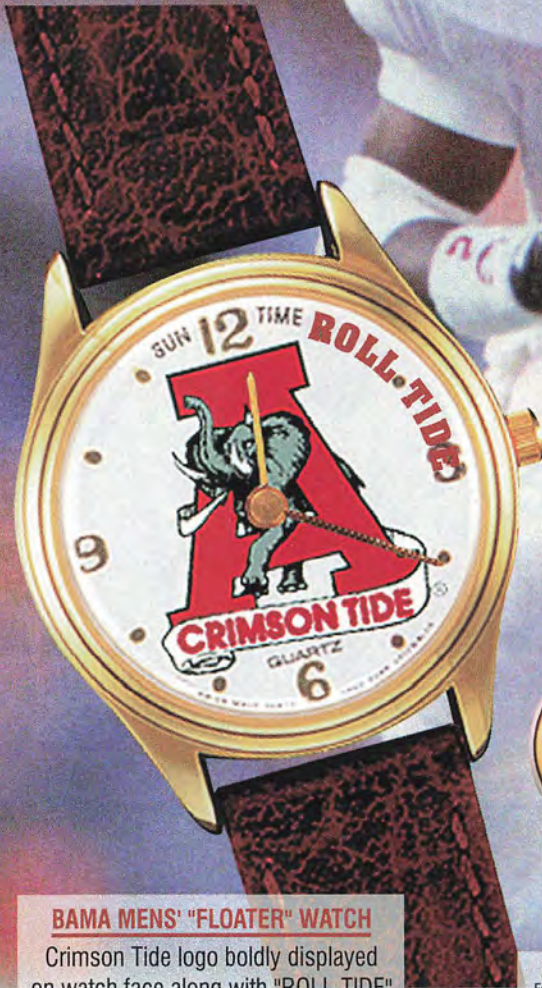
- Football Outlook
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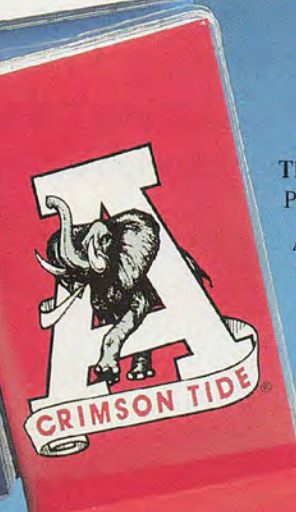
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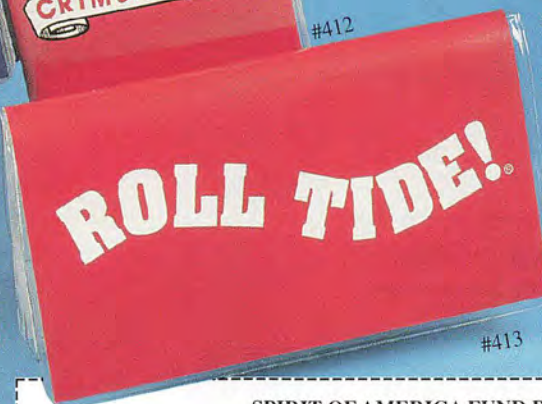
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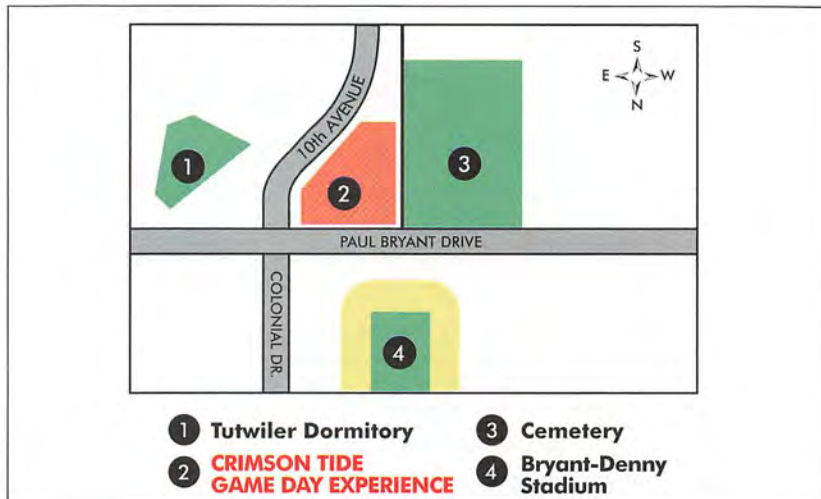


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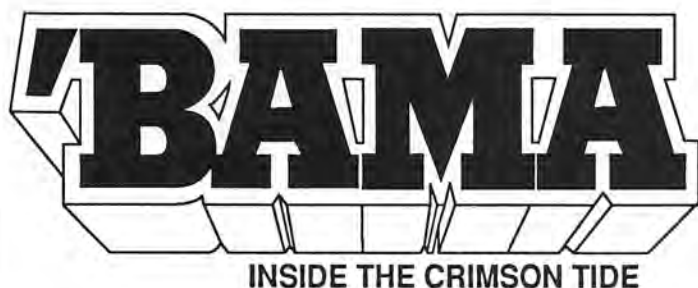
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## Editorial & Staff Directory

Publisher: Lynne McNair  
Editor: Kirk McNair  
Circulation Director: Mary Ellen Palardy  
Assistant to the Publisher: Vera Dowdle  
Director of Promotions: Julia McNair  
Photo Editor: Barry Fikes  
Artist: Dan Proctor

### Contributing Writers:

John Barnes, John Bradshaw,  
Donna Fromme, Louise Ford,  
Donald F. Staffo, Charley Thornton,  
Craig Threlkeld, Andrew Varble II

### Contributing Photographers:

Steven Fikes, Spectrum-Southeast,  
Butch Dill, University of Alabama

### Computer Consultant:

Stephen Bushery, ComSouth

## Publishing Information

'BAMA, INSIDE THE CRIMSON TIDE (USPS 489-470; ISSN 0195-0975) is published monthly for ten months from August to May by College Sports Publications, Inc., 2116 8th Street, Tuscaloosa, Alabama 35401. Editorial office is located at 2116 8th Street, Tuscaloosa, Alabama 35401-2134.

POSTMASTER: Send change of address to 'BAMA, INSIDE THE CRIMSON TIDE, P.O. Box 6104, Tuscaloosa, AL 35486-6104.

Second class postage paid at Tuscaloosa, Alabama, and at additional mailing office. Subscription rate is \$35.00 per year. Foreign subscriptions \$10.00 per additional. Change of address: Six weeks advance notice, and old address as well as new required. Address all correspondence to: Post Office Box 6104, Tuscaloosa, Alabama 35486-6104. Not responsible for unsolicited manuscripts or photographs unless accompanied by return postage. Copyright © 1995 College Sports Publications, Inc. All rights reserved. Reproduction in whole or in part without written permission is prohibited.

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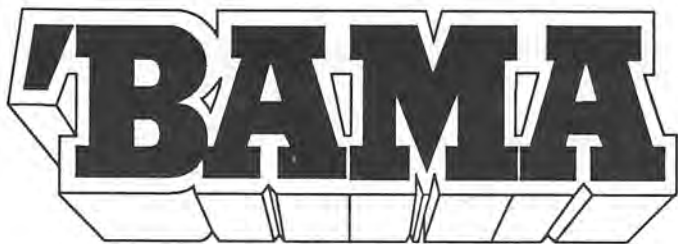
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'BAMA, Inside The Crimson Tide/SEPTEMBER '95





INSIDE THE CRIMSON TIDE

SEPTEMBER, 1995

VOLUME 17, NUMBER 7

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Barry Fikes Photo



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## Football Outlook:

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There are some questions about what goals this Alabama football team can reach, but there is no doubt Bama will put a powerful team on the field this fall. As expected, the defense looks terrific and the kicking game is solid, but the offense is surprisingly improved.

by Kirk McNair

## Pete DiMario:

### Local Boy Trying To Make Good

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Pete DiMario, who played high school football in the shadow of The University, moved up to first team at right offensive tackle in the spring. DiMario has seen a big difference in being a starter as opposed to being on the second unit.

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Alabama was hammered by the NCAA Infractions Committee. Primarily because The University was found guilty of a charge of unethical conduct by Faculty Chairman of Athletics Tom Jones (an allegation learned at the same time of guilt), Alabama's first NCAA violations ended in among the stiffest penalties in history. Alabama is now in the process of appeal.

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# No Doubt This Is A Good Team

by Kirk McNair

There are questions about goals to be reached, but not about talent of Tide



While it is impossible to guess how this Alabama football season will turn out, in great part because of NCAA sanctions being appealed (see Page 23), it doesn't take a football genius to see that the Alabama football team should turn out very, very well.

All that was expected to be good is good, and most of the areas in which there were question marks appear to be shaping up well. This could rank among the best Alabama football teams, which is to say among the best anywhere. Whether the 1995 Crimson Tide can challenge for the National Championship depends on being able to compete for it, and that is not in the hands of the coaches or players. But it is a team that is strong on paper and even stronger on the field.

The field thus far, of course, is the practice field and sometimes it's difficult to get a handle on a squad that is practicing against itself. However, there are enough givens to determine Alabama has quality and quantity at defensive and special teams positions and quality (though not always quantity) on the offensive side.

First to the personnel questions that lingered from the spring:

On special teams, Hayden Stockton has solidified his position as the punter with consistent work under pressure. Alabama didn't delay in beginning practice on special teams, working on all aspects of punting, kickoffs and field goals from day one. The return men have not yet been firmly established, but don't be surprised if true freshman Michael Vaughn, a wide receiver from Clarksdale, Mississippi, doesn't earn playing time at least as a return man.

No one doubted that Bama would be strong up front defensively, but there were questions about the secondary, where only sophomore right cornerback Deshea Townsend returned as a starter. However, Brad Ford, who transferred into Alabama last summer, had an excellent spring and has had an even better August at left cornerback. Two newcomers in the spring, safety Jeremy Pruitt and strong safety Kevin Jackson, are fine players, and yet they are having to battle returning Tiders Cedric Samuel (safety) and Andre Short (strong safety). Additionally, Owen Winston has improved greatly at cornerback and freshmen Steven Stanley (safety) and Thomas Hill and Kelvin Sigler (cornerbacks) provide good depth. (Senior strong safety Eric Turner, who was about third on the depth chart at the end of spring training, elected to transfer, probably to a smaller college.)

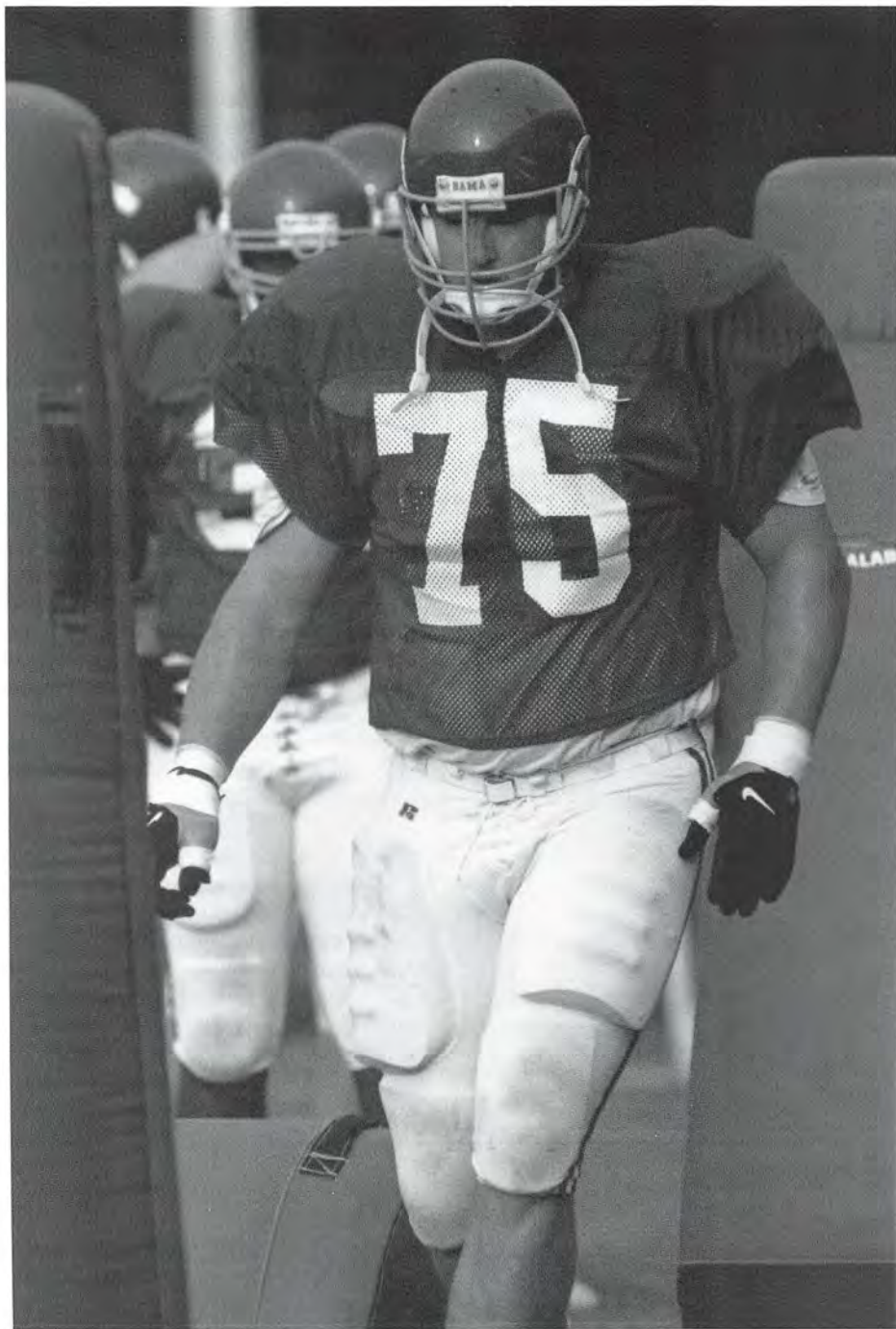
The primary question on the offensive side is in the line. The loss of left tackle Kareem McNeal to severe injuries suffered in a summer automobile accident provides the most concern. Joel Holliday, who worked primarily at right tackle in the spring, and redshirt freshman Sage Spree are competing for the starting job and both have been inconsistent. However, as worrisome as that spot is, the almost-miraculous return of center John Causey, along with good summer improvement by Michael Ray, makes that critical position less a concern.

A summer incident just prior to the start of practice in which quarterback Freddie Kitchens was charged with being drunk and disorderly has added a question at quarterback. He was suspended for Alabama's first two games, but has continued to practice with the first

Alabama Head Coach Gene Stallings (sporting a red shirt rather than his customary white at pre-season practices this year) has some questions about his 1995 Crimson Tide football team, but for the most part everyone who looks at this Alabama squad sees good things.

Barry Fikes Photo





There are a number of positions on Alabama's football team being hotly-contested as the season-opener at Vanderbilt draws near. However, if the Commodores want a partial scouting report, let them know that defensive tackle Shannon Brown will be in Bama's starting line-up.

Barry Fikes Photo

unit. Around the nation the quarterback position at Alabama has been a question because of the loss of four-year starter Jay Barker. However, both Brian Burgdorf, who was leading for the starting job at the end of spring training and who had it handed to him by Kitchens for at least the first two games, and Kitchens have done well in August. Redshirt freshman Warren Foust,

who is very mobile, appears to be the number three man (and the back-up for the Vanderbilt and Southern Miss games).

An interesting aspect of the quarterback battle is that when spring training ended, quarterbacks Burgdorf (190) and Kitchens (240) were 50 pounds apart. When they reported back, both had done well, Burgdorf to build himself up to 212, Kitchens to

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shave himself down to 220.

While those same national experts who questioned the quarterback position at Bama also wondered about a replacement for Sherman Williams at halfback, that has not been a concern for Tide coaches. Stallings has been very pleased with the return of the

top three men from last year, Dennis Riddle, Brian Steger and Curtis Alexander, and has also been pleased with back-ups Rondi Gibson and Montoya Madden and with newcomer Shaun Alexander. The biggest surprise has probably been the improvement of Curtis Alexander, a heretofore little-used

third-year sophomore who has been the most productive runner in early drills.

Fullback was more of a question in the mind of Head Coach Gene Stallings at the end of the spring, but things picked up there in August. Ed Scissum is the leading candidate, ahead of Taurus Turner, but big (6-4, 263) freshman Reggie Grimes may also have an impact there. And although Patrick Hape, perhaps Alabama's best blocker, is primarily a tight end, he has worked at fullback in special situations in the past and continues to keep his hand in it.

There have been some injuries in the early going, but with less than two weeks to go until the Vanderbilt game on September 2, the Tide had pretty much avoided heat-related problems (despite over a week of two-day practices in temperatures of over 100 degrees and a heat index sometimes topping 115). There were two players questionable for the opening game, wide receiver Curtis Brown (shoulder) and freshman cornerback Fernando Bryant (hamstring). Otherwise, the Tide had suffered only the minor bumps, bruises and pulls to be expected in two-day football practices. Steady Chad Key and much-improved Calvin Hall have moved into Brown's split end spot.

It could be said that one question about Alabama's defensive line lingered from the spring. When right end Darrell Blackburn missed the spring game with what was described as a virus, it wasn't known that his football career was in jeopardy because of a kidney malfunction. Blackburn has been given the medical okay to play this year, but he may be limited to special situations (i.e., obvious passing situations, since

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Oct. 14	Tennessee	Birmingham
Oct. 21	Mississippi	Oxford
Oct. 28	North Texas	Tuscaloosa
Nov. 4	LSU	Tuscaloosa
Nov. 11	Mississippi State	Tuscaloosa
Nov. 18	Auburn	Auburn

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he is an exceptional pass rusher). Blackburn is down about 20 pounds to 224, but he has played at that weight in the past.

Otherwise, the only questions concerning the four-man defensive front and the three-position linebacking corps is how to get everyone who deserves it enough playing time. Shannon Brown at right tackle is a given and Kendrick Burton seems to have a lock on left end. However, other positions are up for grabs, even left tackle where Matt Parker returns. Parker is being challenged by Eric Kerley and huge (but mobile at over 300 pounds) Ozell Powell. Something of a question was how Elverett Brown, who can play either end or tackle, would come back from his ankle surgery, and he has responded very well. End Vann Bodden may have come back in the best shape of any of the Tide's defensive linemen. Chris Hood, another who can play end or tackle, would be an all-star candidate on most teams, and he's waiting his chance to play with this group.

There are no questions about the starters at linebacker—Ralph Staten, John Walters and Dwayne Rudd are solid—but the back-up rotation is as muddled as it is on the line. Bama has stockpiled a dozen or so for the linebacker spots and competition for the positions has only improved performance. Paul Pickett is probably the leader behind Staten at strongside, but he's got a battle with John Tanks. Fernando Davis and Tyrell Buckner came out of spring training bracketed behind Walters in the middle and they are still there. Steve Harris, Lamont Floyd and Tito Smith are competing behind Rudd at weakside.

The depth at linebacker also pays dividends on the special teams, where so many linebackers are used in kick coverage.

Although he's not strictly a member of the offensive unit, placekicker Michael Proctor has been very sharp in practice and that should prove to be a major weapon for this Crimson Tide.

**A**s a guess at a starting line-up, it would be: On offense—Split end Chad Key, left tackle Joel Holliday, left guard Maurice Belser, center John Causey, right guard Laron White, right tackle Pete DiMario, tight end Tony Johnson, quarterback Brian Burgdorf, halfback Dennis Riddle, fullback Ed Scissum and flanker Toderick Malone. On defense—Left end Kendrick Burton, left tackle Matt Parker, right tackle Shannon Brown, right end Kelvin Moore, strongside linebacker Ralph Staten, middle linebacker John Walters, weakside linebacker Dwayne Rudd, left cornerback Brad Ford, right cornerback Deshea

## Bryant-Denny Stadium Expansion Plans Set

**A**lthough The University of Alabama Board of Trustees must still give final approval, the next expansion of Bryant-Denny Stadium—and with it the eventual move of all Crimson Tide home football games to Tuscaloosa—is about to begin.

The University received commitments of financial assistance from the cities of Tuscaloosa (\$4 million) and Northport (\$150,000) and Tuscaloosa County (\$500,000) to help with the enlargement of the stadium from approximately 70,000 to approximately 80,000. The expansion will include stadium seats and skyboxes in the North end zone. Alabama President Dr. Roger Sayers said that he could foresee the time when the stadium would grow to 90,000 or larger, and working plans to double deck the South end zone and the East side have been made that would expand the stadium to about 100,000. The remainder of the estimated \$15 million cost of the expansion will be paid by the athletics department.

The University is contracted to play three games each year (including the Auburn and Tennessee games when they are Bama home games) in Birmingham's Legion Field through 2001. Legion Field, which has always been a larger stadium than the campus stadium and which traditionally has been the site of many major Crimson Tide games, seats 83,000. Beginning in 2002, all games (with the exception of an occasional non-conference and non-major game) will be in Tuscaloosa.

Construction will begin before the end of the year and be completed prior to the 1997 football season. Unlike the major renovation and expansion project of 1987, the stadium will not be closed during the 1996 football season.

—Kirk McNair

Townsend, strong safety Andre Short and safety Cedric Samuel.

Alabama has not yet begun to put in its game plan for Vanderbilt, but early work indicates this Alabama team will bear a strong resemblance to last year's 12-1 squad. The offense is going to try to run the football and the defense is going to try to stop the run. August practices indicate the Tide should be successful in that Gene Stallings philosophical goal.

To the surprise of no one, the defense has been far ahead of the offense throughout August. Still, there have been days when the offense has had success moving the football. A primary Bama offensive problem against Alabama's defense has been getting yards, but not getting the football into the end zone.

Much of August was spent with the first offense going against the first defense. Stallings said, "If we're going to get better,

we can't just be going against the third team. You can learn your assignments that way, but in order to get better you've got to have good competition."

Stallings has been disappointed in that aspect. He has noted missed assignments by the offense "and just getting whipped" by the defense, and said, "There comes a time when the offense has just got to get it done. It's not like this is the only good defense we're going to see. We're going to be playing against a good defense every week."

Good? Well, maybe. As good as Alabama's? Not likely.

Alabama's defense probably will see an offense or two that is more productive than Bama's. But if key players stay healthy, the Crimson Tide offense should be more than adequate.

All-in-all, this will be a very good Alabama football team.

## 1995 Alabama Football Schedule

DATE	OPPONENT	SITE	TIME
Sept. 2	Vanderbilt	Nashville	7 p.m.
Sept. 9	Southern Mississippi	Birmingham	2:30 p.m.
Sept. 16	Arkansas	Tuscaloosa	11:30 a.m.
Sept. 30	Georgia	Athens	TBA
Oct. 7	North Carolina State	Tuscaloosa	2:30 p.m.
Oct. 14	Tennessee	Birmingham	TBA
Oct. 21	Mississippi	Oxford	2 p.m.
Oct. 28	North Texas	Tuscaloosa	2:30 p.m.
Nov. 4	LSU	Tuscaloosa	TBA
Nov. 11	Mississippi State	Tuscaloosa	TBA
Nov. 18	Auburn	Auburn	TBA



# 1995 Alabama Football Roster

No	Name, Position	Cl	Hgt	Wgt	Exp	Hometown	No	Name, Position	Cl	Hgt	Wgt	Exp	Hometown
1	Marcell West, flk	Jr.	5-11	183	2L	Niceville, Fla.	49	Chris Warren, rdt	Jr.	6-4	244	Sq	Birmingham
2	Deshea Townsend, lcb	So.	5-10	170	1L	Batesville, Miss.	50	Howie Fell, wlb	Sr.	6-1	215	Sq	Birmingham
3	Michael Proctor, pk	Sr.	5-11	198	3L	Pelham	51	Laron White, rg	Jr.	6-2	272	2L	Courtland
4	Steve Stanley, s	Fr.	6-3	193	HS	Leighton	52	Franz Odom, mlb	Fr.	6-1	240	RS	Semmes
5	Tony Johnson, te	Sr.	6-5	245	3L	Como, Miss.	53	Granison Wagstaff, mlb	Fr.	6-2	225	RS	Enterprise
6	Lance Tucker, qb	So.	6-0	179	1L	Fayette	54	Anthony Dowdle, rde	Jr.	6-1	251	1L	Columbus, Ga.
7	Kevin Jackson, ss	Jr.	6-1	200	JC	Dothan	55	Fernando Davis, mlb	Jr.	6-2	245	2L	Aberdeen, Miss.
8	Tracy High, lcb	Jr.	5-9	175	2L	Pontotoc, Miss.	56	Chris Jordan, rt	So.	6-4	290	Sq	Jackson
9	Freddie Kitchens, qb	So.	6-2	220	1L	Attalla	57	Lamont Floyd, wlb	Jr.	6-2	240	2L	Orange Park, Fla.
9	Mike Reynolds, ss	Sr.	5-11	191	Sq	Centreville	58	Matt Harrison, c	Fr.	6-4	260	RS	Dadeville
10	Thomas Hill, rcb	Fr.	5-10	175	HS	Meridian, Miss.	59	Chris Edwards, mlb	Fr.	6-1	236	RS	Bessemer
11	Brad Ford, lcb	Sr.	5-10	170	1L	Dadeville	60	Chris Samuels, lt	Fr.	6-6	274	HS	Mobile
12	John David Phillips, se-qb	So.	6-3	206	1L	Anniston	61	Chris Sign, lg	Fr.	6-0	257	HS	Arlington, Tex.
13	Cedric Samuel, s-rcb	Jr.	5-9	186	2L	Demopolis	62	Michael Ray, c	So.	6-5	280	Sq	Boaz
14	Brian Burgdorf, qb	Sr.	6-2	212	3L	Cedartown, Ga.	63	Sage Spree, lt	Fr.	6-5	278	RS	Boligee
15	William Watts, pk	Jr.	6-3	211	2L	Pleasant Grove	64	Maurice Belser, lg	Sr.	6-1	292	3L	Cordova
15	Travis Crim, ss	So.	5-9	180	Sq	Clanton	65	Jackson Cook, snap	Jr.	6-1	250	1L	Cullman
16	Josh Niblett, te-fb	Sr.	6-1	233	2L	Demopolis	67	Rhett Crutchfield, lt	Fr.	6-3	236	RS	Birmingham
17	Warrent Foust, qb	Fr.	6-2	205	RS	Midwest City, Okla.	68	Will Friend, lg	So.	6-3	272	1L	Philadelphia, Miss.
18	Hayden Stockton, p	Jr.	6-0	204	Sq	Double Springs	69	Michael Moore, c	Fr.	6-6	290	HS	Fayette
19	Chad Key, se	Sr.	6-4	213	2L	Parrish	70	Jason McDonald, rt	Fr.	6-6	299	HS	Theodore
20	Kelvin Sigler, s	Fr.	6-1	179	HS	Mobile	71	John Causey, c	Jr.	6-2	271	2L	Hayneville
21	Montoya Madden, rb	Fr.	5-9	200	RS	Town Creek	72	Pete DiMario, rt	Jr.	6-5	276	2L	Tuscaloosa
22	Michael Vaughn, flk	Fr.	6-1	185	HS	Clarksdale, Miss.	73	Josh Swords, rg	Fr.	6-3	275	RS	Brentwood, Tenn.
23	Andre Short, ss	So.	5-11	196	1L	LaGrange, Ga.	75	Shannon Brown, ldt	Sr.	6-5	292	3L	Millbrook
24	Marlon Reyes, lcb	So.	5-10	179	Sq	Mexico	76	Elverett Brown, rde	Sr.	6-5	277	3L	Montgomery
25	Fernando Bryant, lcb	Fr.	6-0	174	HS	Murfreesboro, Tenn.	77	Joel Holliday, lt	So.	6-5	289	1L	Six Mile, S.C.
26	Michael Feagin, rb-cb	Fr.	5-9	172	HS	Greenville	78	Ozell Powell, ldt	Jr.	6-5	318	2L	Greenville
27	Jeremy Pruitt, s	Jr.	6-0	182	Tr	Rainesville	79	Jeremy Pennington, rg	Jr.	6-4	268	2L	Vernon
28	Brian Steger, rb	Jr.	6-1	200	2L	New Market	80	Toderick Malone, flk	Sr.	5-11	180	2L	Attalla
29	Dennis Riddle, rb	So.	6-0	190	1L	Tuscaloosa	81	Edgar Walker, lde	So.	6-5	251	Sq	Dothan
30	Taurus Turner, fb	Jr.	6-0	209	2L	Fort Payne	11	Chad Goss, flk	So.	5-11	167	Sq	Warner Robins, Ga.
31	Reggie Grimes, fb	Fr.	6-4	263	HS	Nashville, Tenn.	82	Thad Abernathy, flk	So.	6-0	160	Sq	Enterprise
32	Curtis Alexander, rb	So.	6-1	195	1L	Memphis, Tenn.	83	Calvin Hall, se	Fr.	6-2	197	RS	Gallatin, Tenn.
33	Ed Scissum, fb	So.	6-1	222	1L	Attalla	84	Shamari Buchanan, se	Fr.	6-2	223	HS	Atlanta, Ga.
34	Chris Hood, lde	Fr.	6-1	278	RS	Town Creek	85	Curtis Brown, se	Sr.	6-2	199	3L	John's Island, S.C.
35	Owen Winston, rcb	Fr.	6-0	181	RS	Montgomery	86	Rod Rutledge, te	So.	6-5	270	1L	Birmingham
35	Matt Teague, fb	Fr.	5-11	225	Sq	Montgomery	87	Dwayne Rudd, wlb	So.	6-2	232	1L	Batesville, Miss.
36	Rondi Gibson, rb	Sr.	5-10	191	1L	Brewton	87	Michael Cassady, se	Jr.	6-1	173	Sq	Floral
37	Shaun Alexander, rb	Fr.	6-1	195	HS	Florence, Ky.	88	Chester Lewis, snap	Jr.	6-4	236	1L	Tuscaloosa
38	Patrick Hape, fb-te	Jr.	6-5	252	2L	Killen	89	Tito Smith, wlb	Fr.	6-3	200	RS	Birmingham
40	Daniel Pope, p	Fr.	6-0	191	RS	Alpharetta, Ga.	90	John Walters, mlb	Sr.	6-2	225	3L	Dallas, Tex.
41	Ralph Staten, slb	Jr.	6-4	200	2L	Semmes	91	Clint Waggoner, rde	Fr.	6-6	235	HS	Fairburn, Ga.
42	Paul Pickett, slb	So.	6-3	231	1L	LaGrange, Ga.	92	Tyrell Buckner, mlb	Jr.	6-0	245	2L	Denison, Tex.
43	Steve Harris, wlb	Fr.	6-0	238	Sq	Town Creek	93	Shawn Alexander, rdt	Fr.	6-3	278	HS	Quinton
44	Darrell Blackburn, rde	Jr.	6-4	224	2L	Huntsville	94	Kendrick Burton, lde	Sr.	6-5	288	2L	Hartselle
45	Derek Cunningham, rcb	So.	5-8	155	Sq	Pelham	95	Kelvin Moore, rde	Jr.	6-3	258	2L	Daphne
46	John Tanks, slb	Jr.	6-3	226	2L	Builer	96	Bryan Thornton, ldt	Sr.	6-7	280	3L	Mobile
47	Eddie Hunter, slb	Fr.	6-3	200	RS	LeFlore	97	Vann Bodden, lde	Sr.	6-5	267	2L	Moss Point, Miss.
47	William Leland, fb	Jr.	5-11	222	Sq	Birmingham	98	Matt Parker, rdt	Sr.	6-4	275	1L	Lawton, Okla.
48	Trevis Smith, fb	Fr.	6-0	223	RS	Montgomery	99	Eric Kerley, rdt	So.	6-1	290	1L	Birmingham



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# Local Boy Trying To Make Good

by Donald F. Staffo

Junior offensive tackle feels extra pressure with number one spot

Central High School is a large school (6A) and perennial football power in Tuscaloosa, the home of The University of Alabama. Yet despite being in the shadows of Bryant-Denny Stadium, the Falcons do not regularly feed the Crimson Tide football team.

In 1991 Central had a 9-3 record and produced several players who went on to play college football, but only Pete DiMario joined Bama. When he arrived at The Capstone, DiMario was the only Central player on the team. Now a junior projected to start at offensive right tackle, DiMario has since been joined by fellow Falcon Dennis Riddle, a sophomore competing for the starting tailback spot, and junior Chester Lewis, Bama's long snapper who prepped at Central for two years before transferring to Tuscaloosa Academy.

Although recruited by about 25 schools, including LSU, Mississippi State, Florida, Ole Miss and Arkansas, DiMario said he never really considered going elsewhere.

"I grew up here and I liked watching the games," he said. "I liked the tradition, the coaching staff and the facilities. I knew my way around here already, so I felt comfortable. I didn't have to go to a strange place and meet people. I knew I wanted to come here, so I cancelled all my other official visits."

Prior to enrolling at Alabama, DiMario had already experienced playing in Bryant-Denny Stadium, since Central annually played cross-town rival Tuscaloosa County High there. But playing in the stadium and playing for the Tide are two different things.

"It's more than what I thought it was," DiMario said. "You hear of the tradition and hear what it's like to play for Alabama, but you really don't know what it's like until you step out in the stadium and play for Alabama. A lot of that has to do with the fans we have. They're great."

"For the Central-County High game there might be 15,000 people, 17,000 tops, and we'd say, 'Look at all those people.' It was



Pete DiMario was a member of the "Salty Dogs," the number two offensive line, last year. This year he is expected to be the starter at offensive right tackle. He said the extra pressure of being a starter resulted in him working harder in the off season.

Barry Fikes Photo

our biggest game every year. We loved playing them at the stadium. It was like going to God's country. We thought it couldn't get any better.

"But it can't even equate (with playing for the Crimson Tide)."

Besides playing for Alabama, DiMario likes playing in his adopted hometown. Although he lives in Bryant Hall with the other Tide players, he goes home a couple of times a week to see his parents, brothers and sisters and to get a home-cooked meal. "If I ever need anything, my parents are nearby," he said.

He acknowledges that playing at home can also have its disadvantages. "Everybody knows who you are," he said. "All your friends expect more from you. Everybody knows what you do. That puts a little extra pressure on you."

DiMario, 6-5 and 276-pounds, said he feels even more pressure heading into the season number one on the depth chart at right tackle. "It adds a little pressure because now you're a starter and people expect more from you."

DiMario said the higher expectations made him more excited about the upcoming season and caused him to work harder this past summer. "I'm always excited about football, but this year I'm more excited than I've ever been," he said. "It's a different feeling. It's hard to explain. But I know it made me work harder in the weight room and in my running."

"I lifted five days a week and some nights I jogged until I got tired. Everything was just more intensified. I didn't slack off."

DiMario now bench presses 440 pounds, squats "600-something" and runs a 4.9 forty.

'BAMA, Inside The Crimson Tide/SEPTEMBER '95



Earning a starting position, however, "has in a way taken some pressure off," DiMario said, "because you finally got what you wanted. It means that all your hard work has finally paid off."

"But I know that you can't become complacent. If you do, you won't be a starter very long."

Bama's offensive tackle position was devastated this summer when last year's first string right tackle, senior Kareem McNeal, suffered career-ending injuries in an automobile accident. McNeal had moved to left tackle in the spring, where he had been ticketed to replace the graduated Joey Harville. Now Alabama is having to adjust its tackles with sophomore Joel Holliday moving from back-up right tackle to left tackle, where he and redshirt freshman Sage Spree are expected to duel for the starting job. DiMario will be backed up by sophomore Chris Jordan and true freshman Jason McDonald.

In 1994 DiMario played in every game as part of the "Salty Dogs," the second offensive line that came through at critical times during the season. One was when the substitute unit cleared the way for the Tide to sustain an 18-play touchdown drive against Georgia in what many consider one of the most exciting games ever played in Tuscaloosa. In the come-from-behind 29-28 victory over the Bulldogs, the Salty Dogs did most of the dirty work that set up the game winning field goal. DiMario was also a member of the field goal team.

"That game stands out in my mind," DiMario said. "It was the first collegiate night game I ever played in. Everything seemed to be magnified. We got in there and we scored twice on them. It was unbelievable."

DiMario saw action in nine game in 1993, including contributing on the field goal and point-after-touchdown teams.

DiMario has two years of eligibility left, though he expects to graduate next summer with a degree in physical education. He's concentrating on his technique in an effort to get better. He said he's willing to pay the price.

"I give 110 percent, whether we're running sprints after practice, going OL-DL (offensive line vs. defensive line one-on-one) drills or just in anything we're doing," he said. "Sometimes people tend to loaf. I try not to. One of the things coaches look for is effort."

Off the field, however, DiMario describes himself as easy-going. "I'm kind of a prankster," he said. "I like to play jokes on

the other guys. I'm not the only one. Everyone does it to everybody else."

The son of Francis and Priscilla DiMario, the transplanted Philadelphian relaxes by fishing, hunting and water skiing. DiMario's family moved to Tuscaloosa when Pete was going into the eighth grade.

"But I was an Alabama fan way before that," he said. "I used to wear an Alabama shirt and hat in the third grade. The first Alabama game I ever saw was at Penn State."

"I was rooting for Alabama, and I lived in

Pennsylvania at the time," he said. "Still, when we moved here, I felt different at first. Everybody looked at me like a Yankee-Italian."

"Now I like it here. I consider myself a Southerner. But I miss the good Italian restaurants. You can't get a cannelloni around here."

If he doesn't get a shot at playing professional football, DiMario said he plans to teach physical education and would one day like to be a college football coach.

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# The Complete Package

by John Barnes

Sophomore linebacker has all tools to be a great one

Throughout the history of Alabama football, only a handful of true freshmen have possessed the talent and maturity to step in and make an immediate impact. Players like Antonio Langham and David Palmer established themselves as freshmen and went on to become legitimate stars and All-Americans.

Two such players emerged for the Tide in 1994, one of which was linebacker Dwayne Rudd. Along with high school teammate Deshea Townsend, Rudd gave Tide fans a glimpse of what could become a great career. Rudd's presence and maturity on the field became apparent early in the year. By season's end, he was widely regarded as one of the top freshman performers in the Southeastern Conference. His speed and physical tools are qualities rarely found in underclassmen.

Assistant Coach Jeff Rouzie has tutored some of the school's finest linebackers. Players like Barry Krauss, Rich Wingo, Antonio London and Derrick Oden have all performed under the watchful eye of Rouzie. And Rouzie believes Dwayne Rudd will be one of the finest ever to wear the Crimson.

"Dwayne is the complete package," said Rouzie. "I've been around the game for some time and I don't ever think I've seen anyone as good as Dwayne Rudd at such a young age. He simply has no weaknesses. He's got size (6-2, 232), speed (better than 4.6 in the 40), great lateral movement and a tremendous nose for the football. He's unbelievably strong. He benches more than 700 pounds and once benched 225 75 times. He's probably one of the hardest workers I've ever been around. He'll do anything to make himself a better football player and he's pretty darn good right now."

Penciled in as the starter at weakside linebacker, Rudd is destined to see plenty of action. With Ralph Staten manning the strong side, it will be extremely difficult for anyone to turn the corner on the Alabama defense. "We've got a chance to be an outstanding unit," said Rudd. "I don't think anyone in the country has as much depth as we do on the defensive line and at linebacker. Our third-team guys could start for just about anyone."

Rudd and Staten, along with middle



Dwayne Rudd made an impact as a back-up linebacker as a freshman in 1994. This year he's ticketed to be not only a starter, but also a star if the evaluation of Bama coaches is correct.

Barry Fikes Photo

linebacker John Walters, will anchor an Alabama defense that promises to be a very solid unit. Back-ups Tyrell Buckner, Paul Pickett, Lamont Floyd and Fernando Davis, along with redshirt freshmen Stephen Harris and Chris Edwards, will give Alabama some very impressive depth at linebacker.

"I would say that eight or nine kids have a chance to see action at linebacker," said Rouzie. "Dwayne is the starter right now, but he'll get pushed during practice. That's exactly what we want because it makes everyone better. If he continues to improve, and I think he will, he has a chance to have one of the best sophomore years ever at Alabama."

Coming to the Capstone from Batesville, Mississippi, and South Panola High School, Rudd was widely regarded as the top prospect in the state.

Along with high school teammate and Bama roommate Townsend, Rudd led South Panola to a perfect 15-0 season and the class 5A state championship his senior year.

Rudd sees many similarities between Gene Stallings and his high school coach, Willis Wright. "Coach Stallings and Coach Wright are cut from the same mold," said Rudd. "Both of them treat you like a man and show no favoritism. They have a lot of the same philosophies and believe in rewarding players for hard work."

Originally contacted by more than 20 schools, Rudd planned early on to stay in state and play for Ole Miss or Mississippi State. After contacts from Tennessee, LSU, Florida and Iowa, as well as Alabama, Rudd felt that leaving the state of Mississippi would be better for his development on and off the field.

"I really didn't make that many visits," he



said. "I did go to Tennessee, Iowa and Alabama, in addition to the in-state schools. Although I never made an official visit, I came real close to signing with LSU. When I came here on my visit, I was real impressed with Coach Stallings and the rest of the staff. I thought they were real honest and told me I had a chance to play. In my opinion, there is no better place to be a linebacker than Alabama."

**R**udd was part of a 1994 Alabama defense that struggled to find an identity early in the season. Not until the last three or four games of the season did the Tide defense step up and truly play to its potential. "Early in the year, it seemed some of us just sat back and waited for someone else to make the play," said Rudd. "I think the Georgia game made us wake up and realize we needed to be a little more aggressive."

Seeing his first action in the Tide's season opener against Chattanooga, Rudd went on to play in every game for the Tide, mostly at weakside linebacker, splitting time with André Royal, Lamont Floyd and Staten. As the season progressed, so did Rudd's playing time, culminating in an outstanding performance in the SEC Championship Game.

"I feel pretty good about last year," said Rudd. "I played more than I expected to and it should help me to perform at a higher level this year. We had a good defense over the course of the last three or four games and we played well in the fourth quarter all year. It was kind of a scary feeling when I got here because there were nine linebackers in my class and I was the only one from out of state. I think I was in a little better shape than most of the other guys and I tried to work hard during two-a-days and impress Coach Rouzie. I asked a lot of questions and tried to let him know that I was willing to do anything to play."

Obviously, it worked, as Rudd went on to have a great year, earning post-season honors as a member of the *Knoxville News Sentinel* Freshman All-SEC Team.

Rudd's finest moment came in the SEC Championship Game against Florida when he returned an interception 26 yards for a touchdown. Most remember the touchdown, not for Rudd's outstanding play, but for the fact that Alabama elected not to attempt the two-point conversion as the Gators scored on the next series and won the game 24-23. "To be honest, I was so excited after the play, I never really thought about us going for two. I just looked at the scoreboard and saw Alabama was ahead. It wasn't until after the game and people were pointing it out that I realized what happened. But it's in the past and the coaches did what they thought was right."

On the year, Rudd recorded a total of 26 tackles, including five against Tulane, Georgia and Southern Miss. In addition, he intercepted two passes and caused two fumbles.

"Dwayne had a great freshman year," said Rouzie. "If you look at the sheer numbers we have at linebacker and all the experience we had last year at that position, it was really impressive. Now that he's had a year plus spring practice to learn the system, it should help him to be one of our leaders on defense."

**R**udd views the 1995 season with anticipation. "Defensively, I don't see how we could help but be good," he said. "Depth is very important and we've certainly got it. When enough people play to keep everyone fresh, it really pays off in the fourth quarter. Our starters have proven themselves. John and Ralph and I compliment each other real well. I think everyone realized in spring practice that things were starting to come together. I think we all understand the defense and look forward to going out and beating up on someone other than each other. I think we'll be better than last year."

As is usually the case, Bama's 1995 defense is drawing comparisons to the 1992 squad.

It is the standard by which all Alabama defenses will be measured in the future. "What people have to understand is that the '92 team was one of the best defenses in the history of college football," said Rudd. "Each year, we try to develop our own personality. Last year, we really didn't have much of a personality until late in the year. This year, we need to come out smoking and let people know we're for real. Unlike last year, we know who the starters are, we know who can play and who the back-ups are. I'm real excited about it."

If Bama is to have yet another outstanding season, few would argue that the defense will play a key role. Bama will face the season with an entirely new offensive backfield. In Rudd's view, the responsibility lies squarely on the back of the defense.

"We need to take charge early and give the offense some field position and a chance to grow," he said. "There's a lot of talent over there, but the experience lies with us. We'll miss guys like Damien Jeffries, Michael Rogers and Sam Shade, but everyone out there has the talent and experience to do the job. Everyone seems so worried about the secondary. We don't have much depth, but they'll be fine after a little game experience."

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# Trio Working To Replace Williams

by Kirk McNair

Dennis Riddle has a slight lead over Brian Steger and Curtis Alexander

Opportunity knocks these days in the Alabama Crimson Tide offensive backfield.

With the school's number five career rusher in Sherman Williams gone to the National Football League, no starter returns to carry the load in '95 at tailback, or running back as it is known in Bama nomenclature. Filling the void should be a welcome challenge to Tide coaches, however, as three experienced under-

classmen return.

Sophomore running backs Dennis Riddle (6-0, 190) and Curtis Alexander (6-1, 195) join junior Brian Steger (6-1, 200) as the competition for playing time becomes fierce. With such a loss of talent and experience in Williams, replacing him with just one back will be difficult. Spring practice became the proving ground for this trio of backs, during which they all answered the call.

"In the spring we were trying to find whatever combination it would be," Running Backs Coach Ivy Williams said. "We lost some great, experienced players, but coming back we have some very talented people also."

Throughout spring practice and in their performances in the A-Day Game,

each proved his worth. Alexander, who saw little playing time in 1994, rushed eight times for 33 yards and snared three passes in the spring contest. Steger played well also, totalling 46 yards rushing, 73 yards receiving and two touchdowns. Riddle continued to improve as well, building upon the momentum of a successful freshman campaign.

Williams and the Tide coaching staff will not have the luxury of playing one back for most of the game as was often the case last season with Sherman Williams. Missing the level of experience lost with Williams and fullback Tarrant Lynch, playing two or three backs in the right combinations and schemes will be of the utmost impor-



Dennis Riddle moved up to number two at Alabama's running back position late last year as a freshman. With 1994 starter Sherman Williams having graduated, Riddle is heir apparent to be the number one man at Alabama's signature offensive position.

Barry Fikes Photo

'BAMA, Inside The Crimson Tide/SEPTEMBER '95



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4















# ALABAMA

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**PHOTO 8**

- A. 100% silk vest with U of A seal overall print, in S, M, L, XL.....\$46.95  
 B. Adult suspenders.....\$12.95  
 C. 100% silk necktie with U of A seal design.....\$26.95  
 D. 100% polyester necktie with logo.....\$17.95  
 E. 100% silk necktie with football design.....\$27.95  
 F. 100% silk boxer shorts with elastic waistband, in S, M, L, XL.....\$25.95  
 G. Cotton sunflower or celestial ponytail holders to coordinate with shorts or t-shirts.....\$ 5.95  
 H. 100% silk ponytail holder with U of A seal design.....\$ 7.95

**PHOTO 9**

- A. Solid brass car tag frame.....\$31.95  
 B. Pewter car tag frame.....\$17.95  
 C. Solid brass "Alumni" car tag frame.....\$31.95  
 D. Metal car tag frame, "Alabama Crimson Tide" or "Alumni".....\$ 7.95  
 E. Brass alumni car tag.....\$21.95  
 F. Alumni metal car tag.....\$ 3.95  
 G. Gold w/UofA seal metal car tag.....\$ 4.95  
 H. Pewter car tag.....\$21.95  
 I. "IAM4UA" car tag.....\$ 3.95  
 J. Pewter "BAMA" car tag.....\$21.95  
 K. "Roll Tide" metal car tag.....\$ 3.95  
 L. Black/gold metal car tag.....\$ 3.95  
 M. White with crimson tag. Also available crimson with white.....\$ 3.95  
 N. Football shaped crimson with white tag.  
 Also available white with crimson.....\$ 4.95  
 O. "Alabama Established" car tag.....\$ 3.95  
 P. Football field design car tag.....\$ 3.95

**PHOTO 10**

- A. Ceramic stein, 28 oz. with U of A seal and gold trim.....\$15.95  
 B. Ceramic stein, 30 oz. with U of A seal and gold trim.....\$16.95  
 C. Ceramic salt and pepper shakers with "A/Elephant" logo.....\$10.95  
 D. 10 oz. Beverage glass.....\$ 7.50  
 E. 10 oz. Double old fashion glass.....\$ 5.95  
 F. 8 oz. Coffee cup "Rolling with the Tide".....\$ 6.50  
 G. 2 oz. Ceramic shot glass with handle.....\$ 5.95  
 H. 18 oz. Plastic cup, 10/pack (Also available matching plates and napkins).....\$ 2.95  
 I. 8 oz Coffee cup with U of A logo.....\$ 6.50  
 J. 1 1/2 oz. Shot glass with "Bama Roll Tide".....\$ 3.95  
 K. Insulated foam squeeze bottle.....\$ 4.95  
 L. Foam huggers.....\$ 2.95

- M. Insulated foam mini squeeze bottle.....\$ 3.95  
 N. 16 oz. Insulated tumbler with handle.....\$10.95  
 O. 16 oz. Insulated tumbler.....\$ 8.95  
 P. 12 oz. Insulated tumbler.....\$ 8.95  
 Q. 10 oz. Beverage glass with handle.....\$ 8.95  
 R. 12 oz. Mini mug with lid.....\$ 3.95  
 S. 22 oz. Super mug with lid.....\$ 4.95

**PHOTO 11**

- A. 100% Nylon soccer style shorts with vented legs, elastic waistband & drawstring in S-XL.....\$12.95  
 B. Gray basic cotton shorts with elastic waistband & drawstring, "Alabama" in S-XL.....\$11.95  
 C. Mesh shorts with elastic waistband & drawstring, available in white or crimson in S, M, L, XL.....\$24.95 2XL.....\$26.95  
 D. 100% cotton boxer style shorts with black background celestial design "Alabama" in gold in S-XL.....\$18.95  
 E. Heather gray T-shirt (matches shorts) "Alabama Football" print on front in M, L, XL.....\$18.95 2XL.....\$19.95 3XL.....\$20.95  
 F. Navy 100% heavyweight cotton shorts with side pockets, elastic waistband & drawstring in S-XL.....\$21.95  
 G. Longer length ash 100% cotton shorts with 2 side pockets, drawstring & elastic waistband, "Alabama Athletics", in S-XL.....\$15.95  
 H. Sunflower design cotton boxer style shorts in burgundy with elastic waistband, "Alabama" on left leg, in S-XL.....\$15.95  
 I. Heather gray running shorts with elastic waistband & drawstring (matches shirt), "Alabama Football" on left leg, in S-XL.....\$15.95 2XL.....\$16.95  
 J. Sunflower design cotton boxer style shorts in navy with elastic waistband, "Alabama" on left leg, in S-XL.....\$15.95

**PHOTO 12**

- A. White 100% pre-shrunk cotton t-shirt, front design "I've got friends...", back design "In low places...Auburn", in M, L, XL.....\$11.95 2XL.....\$12.95  
 B. Charcoal gray 100% cotton rough-out t-shirt, in M, L, XL.....\$19.95  
 C. Crimson 100% cotton t-shirt with block "BAMA", in L, XL.....\$11.95  
 D. White 100% cotton t-shirt with Red Cross symbol on left chest, (back design shown) in M, L, XL.....\$13.95 2XL.....\$15.95  
 E. White pre-shrunk 100% cotton t-shirt with "Alabama List of Endangered Species..." in M, L, XL.....\$13.95 2XL.....\$15.95  
 F. Silver gray 100% cotton sleeveless t-shirt with full front design, in L, XL.....\$17.95 2XL.....\$19.95

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- A. Gray 100% cotton t-shirt with "Crimson Tide of Alabama" screen printed and "A/Elephant" embroidered in the middle, in M, L, XL.....\$22.95
- B. White long-sleeve turtleneck with "Bama" embroidered on collar, in M, L, XL.....\$22.95 2XL.....\$24.95
- C. Heavyweight 100% cotton t-shirt, full design embroidery, available in gray or white in M, L, XL.....\$28.95 2XL.....\$30.95
- D. White 100% cotton t-shirt, embroidery sunflower design, in M, L, XL.....\$23.95 Silk screened S, M, L, XL.....\$15.95 2XL.....\$17.95
- E. 100% cotton t-shirt, embroidery "Alabama" in ash or white, in M, L, XL.....\$26.95 2XL.....\$28.95
- F. Long sleeve 100% cotton white t-shirt with "U of A" on pocket area, "Crimson Tide" on neck, in M, L, XL.....\$21.95 2XL.....\$23.95
- G. Crimson 100% cotton t-shirt full front design white puff "Alabama", in L, XL.....\$14.95

## PHOTO 1

- A. 10" Plush brown bear with red knit sweater.....\$26.95
- B. Crimson mesh football jersey with tazon sleeves, available in following #s: 1,2,7,14,44,71,77  
2T,3T,4T.....\$22.95 4,5,6,7.....\$23.95 6/8, 10/12,14/16.....\$27.95  
Adult S-XL.....\$30.95 2XL.....\$32.95
- C. Alabama Elephant table lamp.....\$59.95
- D. Two piece cheerleader dress, chenille megaphone with "Bama" & turtleneck shirt 12-mo. - youth Large.....\$28.95
- E. Gray plush elephant with red sweater 8".....\$21.95 6".....\$18.95
- F. 3-pc. infant suit with shirt, pants, socks, all with logo  
12, 18, 24-mos. ....\$18.95
- G. Terry cloth baby bib with snap closure.....\$ 5.95
- H. White newborn cotton cap with "Alabama Crimson Tide".....\$ 5.95
- I. 4" x 9" felt pennant w/ Elephant head or felt pennant w/ UA seal.....\$ 4.50
- J. Two piece infant outfit, sleeveless top with pants. Alabama logo.....\$11.95
- K. Sipper cup with logo.....\$ 2.95
- L. Evenflo baby bottle (with logo).....\$ 4.95
- M. Canvas tennis shoes with Alabama print. Sizes 1,2,3,4.....\$16.95
- N. Soft sole dress up baby shoes in sizes 0,1,2,3.....\$17.95
- O. White cotton turn-down socks in small.....\$ 5.50
- P. Infant knit socks available in white or crimson.....\$ 5.50
- Q. Ash 100% cotton t-shirt with "A/Crimson Tide" and "Bama" print.....\$12.95
- R. Red mesh shorts with elastic waistband and drawstring in S, M, L.....\$20.95
- S. Red mesh basketball jersey in S, M, L.....\$24.95
- T. White 100% cotton SEC banner t-shirt in M, L.....\$11.95 Adult Sizes.....\$13.95

## PHOTO 2

- A. 100% combed cotton golf shirt with burgundy and navy stripes. L, XL.....\$37.95
- B. 100% cotton golf shirt with soft collar. White or Crimson M, L, XL.....\$31.95 2XL.....\$34.95 3XL.....\$35.95
- C. Premium vented soft golf gloves in S - XL.....\$15.95
- D. Light weight nylon golf bag with padded top and full length dividers.....\$99.95
- E. 35" Putter durable one-piece construction. Rht. or Lft-handed available.....\$44.95
- F. Plush velour terry sport towel. 16" x 26".....\$12.95
- G. Crimson 100% cotton pique golf shirt M, L, XL.....\$33.95 2XL.....\$36.95 3XL.....\$37.95
- H. Fringed golf towel with screen printed logo. 16" x 26".....\$ 7.95
- I. Spalding golf balls, 1.....\$3.95 Box of 3.....\$8.95 12.....\$26.95
- J. Combo tee packet with 15 wooden tees and 2 wooden ballmarkers and repair tool.....\$ 3.95
- K. Graphite headcover with embroidery logo and 10" protection knit sock.....\$14.95

## PHOTO 3

- A. White 100% cotton t-shirt w/pocket "Bama Roll Tide" (back design shown) in L, XL.....\$19.95
- B. 100% cotton t-shirt with arched "Alabama", crimson or gray, in M, L, XL.....\$16.95 2XL.....\$17.95 3XL.....\$18.95
- C. Ash 100% cotton pre-shrunk t-shirt in M, L, XL.....\$17.95 2XL.....\$19.95
- D. 100% cotton t-shirt with University of Alabama on front, back design shown, in M, L, XL.....\$19.95 2XL.....\$20.95

- E. Gray mostly cotton content t-shirt with "A/elephant" in middle and "Alabama Crimson Tide", in M, L, XL.....\$19.95 2XL.....\$21.95
- F. 100% cotton t-shirt with "Alabama XXL Athletics", Crimson or Gray in M, L, XL.....\$16.95 2XL.....\$18.95 3XL.....\$19.95 Youth Gray Only.....\$10.95
- G. Ash 100 combed cotton t-shirt "Alabama football...it's not a matter of life and death." L, XL.....\$13.95

## PHOTO 4

- A. Cotton twill golf cap. White and crimson. Adult and Youth sizes.....\$11.95
- B. Suede golf cap with embroidered "A" .....\$26.95
- C. Cotton twill golf cap with contrasting visor. 3 position embroidery.....\$15.95
- D. Cotton twill Hogan hat in white or khaki.....\$10.95
- E. Cotton twill bar design golf cap in white or crimson.....\$12.95
- F. Cotton twill golf cap in crimson with embroidered script "A".....\$13.95
- G. Low profile khaki cotton twill cap with script "A".....\$10.95
- H. Cotton twill cap with embroidered "BAMA" in white or crimson.....\$10.95
- I. Poly/wool blend cap with cream crown and contrasting bill.....\$13.95
- J. Crimson cotton twill cap with front and back embroidery.....\$13.95
- K. Low profile cap with denim crown with suede bill.....\$14.95
- L. Crimson fitted wool cap with embroidery script "A".....\$15.95
- M. Low profile two tone khaki cap with embroidery script "Bama".....\$11.95
- N. Wool plaid with suede visor. "Alabama".....\$17.95
- O. Cotton twill golf cap circle design in white or crimson.....\$12.95
- P. 6-panel low profile cap with contrasting bill. Adjustable leather strap.....\$20.95

## PHOTO 5

- A. Water and wind resistant poplin jacket. Double collar to block out wind. Adjustable snap cuffs. Windflap for added weather protection. Inside pocket, in M, L, XL.....\$85.95 2XL.....\$89.95
- B. Gray crewneck 50/50 sweatshirt with "BAMA" screen print, in M, L, XL.....\$25.95 2XL.....\$27.95
- C. Crimson 100% cotton canton crewneck fleece with embroidery design, in M, L, XL.....\$39.95 2XL.....\$42.95
- D. Chino 100% cotton canton crewneck fleece with screen print design, in M, L, XL.....\$35.95 2XL.....\$38.95
- E. Ash crewneck 80/20 sweatshirt with pinstripe on neck and sleeves. Screenprinted, in M, L, XL.....\$39.95 2XL.....\$42.95
- F. Crimson reverse weave 90/10 crewneck sweat shirt. 6" "BAMA" tackle twill letters on front, in M, L, XL.....\$54.95 2XL.....\$59.95
- G. Plump-A-Lump elephant nylon outer shell, washable surface.....\$15.95

## PHOTO 6

- A. Stone washed 100% cotton long sleeve denim shirt with pocket and button-down collar with embroidery, in S, M, L, XL.....\$48.95 2XL.....\$51.95
- B. Tundra texture fleece 65/35 sweatshirt with side pockets and half zipper that zips into a cowl neck in M, L, XL.....\$61.95 2XL.....\$64.95
- C. Hunter green heavyweight 80/20 sweatshirt with plaid insert and "Alabama" embroidery across sewn-on block "A", in M, L, XL.....\$54.95
- D. Crimson 45/55 crewneck sweatshirt with arched "Alabama" embroidery plus tackle twill and embroidery seal, in M, L, XL.....\$44.95 2XL.....\$48.95
- E. Gray reverse weave cotton fleece crewneck sweatshirt with 5" tackle twill "Alabama", in M, L, XL.....\$51.95 2XL.....\$53.95 3XL.....\$55.95
- F. Crimson canton fleece 100% cotton sweatshirt with embroidery front design, in M, L, XL.....\$41.95 2XL.....\$44.95

## PHOTO 7

- A. Felt Pennant 12" x 30".....\$14.95
- B. Beach towel 30" x 55".....\$17.95
- C. Round serving tray.....\$16.95
- D. Ice bucket, 3 quart.....\$19.95
- E. Bulova quartz wall clock.....\$27.95
- F. Trash can 13 quart.....\$21.95
- G. Door/Floor mat 18" x 27".....\$16.95 Musical fight song version.....\$39.95
- H. AM/FM radio with ear phone and batteries.....\$21.95
- I. Bulova LCD quartz clock in replica helmet.....\$26.95
- J. Door chime. Wireless remote. Plays fight song.....\$40.95
- K. Helmet phone on wooden plaque.....\$279.95





Brian Steger has the dubious distinction of being prone to fumble, which is not a good way to earn playing time under Coach Gene Stallings. However, the junior went through spring training without fumbling and he has shown in practice and in games that he has big play capability.

Barry Fikes Photo

tance in order to achieve success in the Tide's bread and butter of offensive strategies. But even without the dominating presence of Williams, someone in the Tide backfield must step up.

"We have to get one or two guys to control that position," Coach Williams said. "We need to be able to dominate at our position, and not fall back. Running the ball is what we do at Alabama, so these guys need to be able to perform for us, and they know that." Williams plans to play a one- or two-man rotation, and looks forward to the competitive scenario playing itself out in practice.

In this search for continuity and production, all three can bring something totally different to the offense. With

Riddle, Williams expects a physical and tough player, likening his style to that of the slashing, powerful running of the bigger Steger. With Steger's size and strength, breaking tackles and running over tacklers will be a contrast to the "jitterbugging" and explosive bursts of Sherman Williams. And with Alexander, Williams saw signs of a physical nature during spring practice and the A-Day game that he feels may vault Curtis into a favorable position in the rotation.

Entering two-a-day fall practices, Riddle had a grasp on the top spot. As a true freshman, the Tuscaloosa native performed well during the 1994 season, playing in every game and scoring two touchdowns, his

second providing the Tide with a late win against Mississippi State in Starkville.

"Dennis inherited the job because of his performance during the fall, and he was able to hold onto it in the spring practices," Williams said. Riddle rushed for 143 yards on 37 carries during the '94 campaign, and showed why he was an all-state selection for Coach Buzz Busby and Central High School. "I felt like the only way I could come in and play as a freshman was to prove something every week by practicing hard," Riddle said. Even with a heralded scholastic career, however, Coach Williams admits he was pleasantly surprised with Riddle's ability to step in right away.





Although Curtis Alexander has not seen much playing time at Alabama, redshirted in 1993 and little-used last season, he began to show in practice in the spring that he has what it takes to be a quality halfback. Alexander is also considered the best pass catcher among the running backs.

Barry Fikes Photo

"I was surprised that a true freshman could play the way he played," Williams said. Stability with Sherman Williams, along with injuries to Brian Steger, afforded Riddle the perfect opportunity to make his mark. "In the latter part of the season we were looking for someone to spell Sherman, and with his play Dennis was the guy," Williams said.

For now Riddle is the starter, but he knows the competition won't allow any mistakes. "I see the running back position wide open; the competition is really tight," Riddle said. "I have a lot of confidence that I can come in and get the job done, but with Brian pushing me I can't have many bad practices." Quickness was an area of improvement for a slightly smaller (down from 200 to 190) Riddle during the summer, along with confidence and enhanced concen-

tration to catch the football.

Steger, currently the number two running back, is building on a successful spring as well and looks to push Dennis Riddle relentlessly for the top spot in the Tide backfield. Battling through a shoulder injury that limited his action to 88 plays in seven games in '94, he accounted for 145 yards rushing on 36 carries and scored three touchdowns. Steger's health is no longer a concern. Reporting to fall practice he said he feels 100 percent and is 10 pounds lighter, a goal he set for himself over the summer.

In addressing the position's competition, Brian downplays the one-two battle between him and Riddle, concerning himself only with his daily performance. "I'm not looking at Riddle and me in a big competition because it's not

about us trying to get a spot," Steger says. "If he's doing good in the game, or if I'm doing good, it's helping the team. I'm just taking it one day at a time and working hard to improve."

At a lighter weight, Steger looks to show a variety of running styles in 1995, incorporating the powerful, slashing style he displayed in '93 and '94 with an improved ability to make defenders miss. Quicker feet and improved overall quickness was another individual goal for the summer, one which he feels is not completely achieved. He insists, however, that no one style will dominate. "I want to mix my game up so that the defense doesn't always know what is coming at them," he added.

Besides injury, perhaps Steger's only kink in the armor is a well-documented



fumbling problem. Obviously, at any time a fumble is undesirable, but both Steger and Coach Williams feel the problem is under control and certainly not anything "to get bent out of shape about." Steger's hard style of running, coupled with what he felt was good plays by defensive players, accounted for putting the ball on the ground last season.

**P**air nagging injuries with sharing time with other tremendous running backs, and you find yourself in the shoes of Curtis Alexander. Highly praised out of Whitehaven High School in Memphis, this *SuperPrep* All-America was considered the seventh best back in the country in 1993 as he joined the ranks of the Crimson Tide. After a red-shirt year in '93, Curtis played little last year, seeing action in three games in which he ran for 75 yards and scored one touchdown.

But in spring practice of '95, Coach Williams saw a glimmer of what has

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been expected from Alexander. Fighting through the bumps and bruises, Alexander was a more physical and hard-nosed runner, something that Williams feels can make him a more complete back.

"Curtis showed me some things in spring practice and in the A-Day Game that maybe it's time for him to come alive," Williams said. "He's really trying to emerge as a player and to make things happen, and I hope that's the case with him."

Despite the presence of Sherman Williams in last year's backfield, Alexander feels his playing time was a bit too limited. But even though things weren't going well for Curtis, his outlook on this season and his contributions are quite positive. "I feel like I can be a complete back, and do everything that is asked of me," he said. "Getting to play and prove myself every week is what I really want to do. And I know that I'll have to take my turn. I just want everything to work out for the good of the team."

As a result, running harder, becoming more confident in his understanding of the offense and hard work in the off-season should push Alexander back into coaches' good graces.

As fall approaches, as many as five running backs will compete for spots in a one or two-man rotation. Showing signs and making plays both in practice and out on the field will make the difference. Whoever steps up certainly has big shoes to fill.

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**by Daniel A. Moore**

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# Critical To Crimson Tide Success

by Kirk McNair

Always important, the role of non-scholarshipped players could increase

During preparation for last season's Citrus Bowl, Ohio State Head Football Coach John Cooper noted that he had brought every available player and had only 88. Alabama, meanwhile, had 116 players in Orlando. Cooper said that was a big advantage for Bama, and noted that, "Alabama is obviously doing a better job of attracting walk-ons than Ohio State is."

It's not by accident that Alabama has a large number of non-scholarshipped players in its football program. And with NCAA

sanctions reducing the number of scholarshipped players the Tide will have in future seasons, the walk-on program will become even more important.

While Randy Ross is best known as Alabama's recruiting coordinator when the Tide goes after the nation's top prospects with offers of scholarships, Ross also has the responsibility of attracting quality players to pay their own costs to attend The University and try out for the football team. Ross is the first to admit that many of Alabama's non-scholarshipped players recruit themselves. "The State of Alabama always has a good nucleus of high school football players who have grown up dreaming of playing for Alabama," Ross said. "Most of them have an opportunity to play at another college, perhaps a smaller college or a junior college, on scholarship. But they want to play for Alabama."

Once upon a time, when scholarship limits were much higher, a walk-on had little chance of succeeding at an Alabama. Clem Gyska, who is now an administrator with the Paul W. Bryant Museum, was the recruiting coordinator under Bryant when Alabama (and other schools) were handing out far more scholarships. He remembered Alabama "almost making it difficult for a kid to walk on. We just had so many players that you couldn't devote enough time to them if you had 30 or 40 walk-ons."

Twenty years ago the non-scholarshipped players (other than an occasional kicker or wide receiver) who did make it into camp were primarily cannon fodder, members of the scout team serving as human tackling dummies and the like. That's no longer the case. "We have non-scholarshipped players on the special teams and on our two-deep roster on offense and defense, and we have scholarshipped players on our scout team," Ross said. "There's no difference in a scholarshipped player and a non-scholarshipped player once he's here. We're looking for men to earn a position."

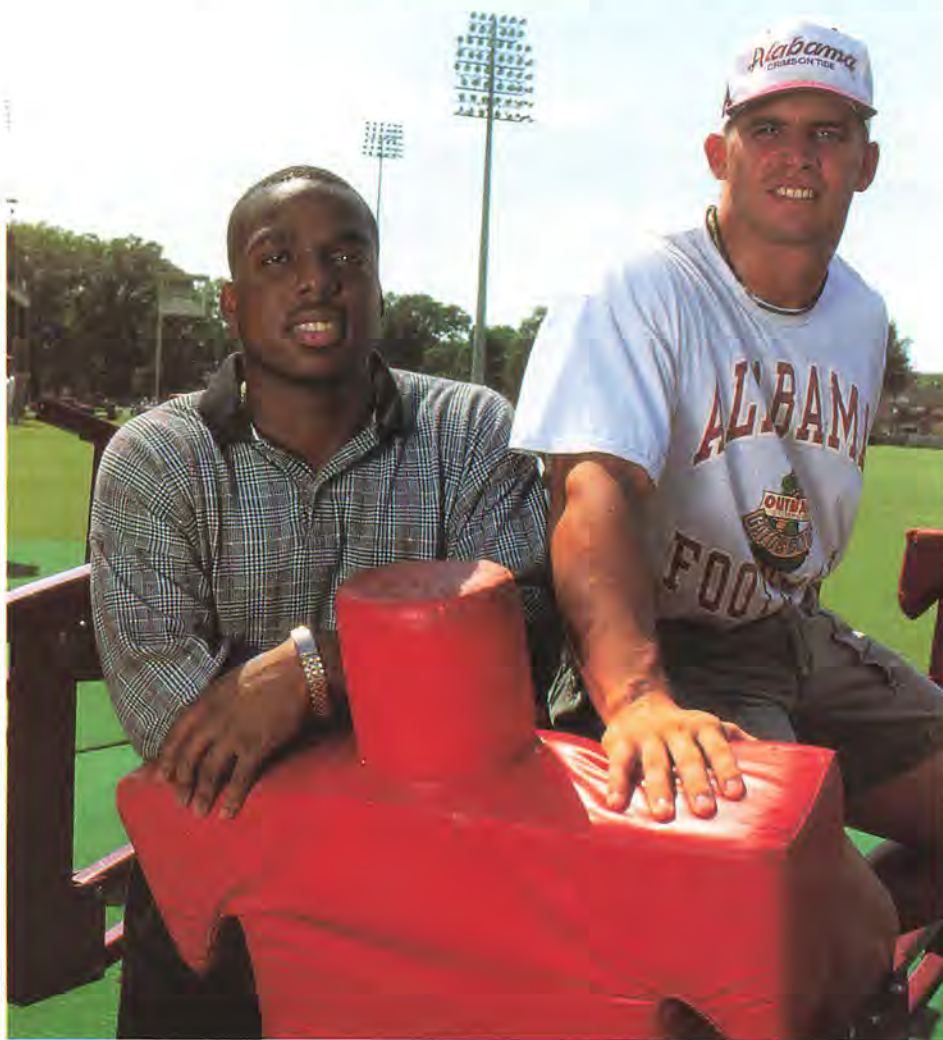
The Tide's non-scholarshipped players agree. Tracy High, a junior cornerback from Pontotoc, Mississippi, said, "One of the things I admire about Coach Stallings is that once we're on the field, everyone's the same in competing for a starting job."

Josh Niblett, who began his career as a scholarshipped player at Southern Miss, transferred to Alabama without scholarship aid. The senior tight end and fullback from Demopolis said, "If someone sees us (scholarshipped and non-scholarshipped players) together at practice or on campus or anywhere else, they'd never know that I was the walk-on. It's the same except for the (scholarship) money. I've been treated just like the scholarship players. It may not be that way everywhere, but at Alabama everyone is treated the same way."

"I got a National Championship ring just like the scholarshipped players, I've got my memories, and I've made lifetime friends on this football team. These are some of the best guys anyone could hope to play with. I actually feel sorry for guys at other colleges who don't get to play at Alabama."

Tracy High (left) and Josh Niblett are Alabama players with a distinction. The Crimson Tide didn't recruit them with scholarships. They are among a group of Bama players who walked on and pay to play for Bama.

Barry Fikes Photo





Niblett noted that he was a quarterback at Southern Miss, "And here I've been a strong safety, outside linebacker, fullback and tight end. It was kind of a joke around the team that they expected to see me kicking one day. But the coaches were trying to find the best spot for me, and it's helped me. I've gotten to play a good bit and I think I'll play more this year."

**W**alk-ons figure prominently in Alabama's plans this year. Consider a likely depth chart. Michael Ray is listed as a co-first team player at center. Jeremy Pruitt, who transferred from a scholarship position at Middle Tennessee State to walk-on status at Alabama, came out of spring drills as the number one free safety. High is a back-up cornerback, primarily on the left side. The kicking game includes both snappers, Jackson Cook and Chester Lewis; the top two candidates for the punting job, Hayden Stockton and Daniel Pope; and the kickoff man, William Watts. Additionally, a number of members of coverage and return teams (including High and Niblett) are non-scholarshipped players.

Chad Key came to Alabama as a walk-on. He earned a scholarship and is now in the regular rotation at wide receiver.

"A big part of our success in attracting walk-on players is that Coach Stallings has put so many of them on scholarship," Ross said. "In the past five years we've had about 15 non-scholarshipped players who earned a scholarship. That's probably more than the rest of the (Southeastern) Conference schools combined."

Ross said that word of mouth is a big selling point for the Tide. "The players who have come here without scholarships tell their friends how they're treated and it gets around," Ross said. "In fact, when we have a kid on campus who is thinking about walking on, we make it a point to have him talk to a player who came here without a scholarship."

Something Ross said to Tracy High when High was deciding where he would walk on made a point with the player. "He told me that when he coached in high school he had some players who wanted to continue to play in college and who had to go as walk-ons," High said. "He said the ones who were able to go where they wanted to go were much happier than those who went where they had to go."

Ross said that being a walk-on is not a reflection on a player's ability. "It's not that we don't want them or think that they aren't good enough to play," he said. "Usually it's

just a matter of numbers, either limits on the number we can sign in a year or in the overall limit of 85 scholarships or, perhaps, in the number of players we have at a certain position."

Ross said that Alabama doesn't recruit walk-on players during the normal recruiting period between the end of the season and February. "We bring in some players (for official visits) who we don't offer scholarships to, and we keep up with them," Ross said. "If they don't sign with someone, we'll

contact them. But usually guys contact us." He said that a high school freshman who is interested in walking on at Alabama should have his coach and principal write letters on his behalf and have game films and a transcript sent to Ross. And how many are likely to do that? "Conservatively," Ross said, "about 250 players contact us about walking on each year."

One disadvantage for every school is the NCAA limit on the number of players who can be in practice prior to the beginning of

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classes. That number is 105. Almost without exception a school will have all of its scholarship players in camp, then make up the difference with walk-ons who have been a part of the team and/or who could play a critical role in preparation (such as a kicker). This year Alabama had 13 scholarshiped freshmen and 67 returning scholarshiped players in camp. That left room for 25 walk-ons. Only one of those 25, freshman defensive lineman Shawn Alexander, was a newcomer. Generally speaking, a school's allotment of walk-on players prior to the start of classes will come from players who were most impressive in the previous spring training.

**T**he NCAA sanctions that will limit Alabama to only 12 signees in February and only 16 in 1997 are likely to have an effect on current walk-on players earning scholarships. Although Alabama has not received a final ruling, it is possible the Tide will be able to replace players lost to injury (such as offensive tackle Kareem McNeal this year) by awarding a scholarship to a walk-on. It is also possible that a walk-on who has been on campus for two years may be added to the scholarship

roll without it counting against the signing limits, provided Alabama stays below 81 total scholarships for the next two years.

"The walk-on program has always been important here," Ross said, "and now it's going to be more important. When you have just 85 on scholarship you have to have a significant number of non-scholarshiped players. If you don't have 85 it grows in importance with every number under 85."

Ironically, the chance that scholarships for walk-ons may be harder to come by doesn't affect the current non-scholarshiped players as much as one of the other sanctions: the bowl ban for this season.

Pruitt, who is the son of Plainview Head Coach Dale Pruitt, said, "My dad's a high school coach, so you know he doesn't make any big money, but he's told me not to worry about it. But hearing the bowl sanction is what struck me. Not having a scholarship is not as bad as not being able to go to a bowl or win the SEC or the National Championship."

Niblett said that when he left his scholarship behind to transfer to Alabama his father, John (who is also a high school coach, the head man at Meadowview Christian in

Selma), told him, "Nobody's going to feel sorry for you, except maybe your mama. Go where you'll be happy."

"I don't really understand all of the sanctions," Ray said, "but I understand the scholarship limits. That hits home in the bank account. But I'd rather be going to a bowl than getting a scholarship."

Ray was a highly-regarded prospect with numerous scholarship offers when he came out of Boaz High School. However, his heart was set on Alabama, where he had twice attended summer football camps. He was a regular at Bama games as a youngster, not missing an Alabama-Tennessee or Alabama-Auburn game since 1979. "I probably would have come to Alabama anyway, but when my dad said not to worry about the money, my decision was made."

High is the exception rather than the rule in that he is not from the state of Alabama, and thus gets hit with a higher tuition bill. Additionally, his brother, Terry, was a scholarshiped running back at Mississippi State. In the fourth game of his senior season, High, who was a quarterback and running back in high school, suffered a knee injury, and many of the recruiters stopped calling. However, former Tide Assistant Coaches Mike Solari and Larry Kirksey stayed in touch. Even though there was no scholarship money available for High from Bama or other SEC schools, he decided not to take the small college or junior college offers he had.

"My family knew it was my dream to play in the SEC, and they supported me," he said. "Coach Ross invited me to come over and watch a spring training practice. I had been to some Alabama games and loved the atmosphere. But I also loved the atmosphere of Alabama practices and the facilities. And of course Alabama has great football tradition. My mind was made up."

High said that things have gone about as he expected them to, "except I didn't expect to win a National Championship my first year. It was nice to go to the Sugar Bowl and get the ring."

High said the scholarship sanctions against Alabama may prevent him from getting one, "but I'll have my degree, my ring, and the opportunity to have played for Alabama. I have no complaints."

Although High doesn't have a scholarship, he may have helped the Crimson Tide use one very wisely a couple of years ago. His cousin is Deshea Townsend, a Freshman All-SEC performer last year and a pre-season All-SEC cornerback this year. "Me being here may have helped secure his decision," High said.

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# Tide Seeks Justice Through Appeal

by Kirk McNair

Tide football could be damaged for years if some relief isn't granted

The two pieces of information most often sought are impossible to provide. The first is to make sense of the NCAA Infractions Committee's penalties against the Alabama football program. That can't be done because the penalties don't make sense. The second is to speculate on the result of The University's appeal to the NCAA Infractions Appeals Committee. Again, it's impossible to know what to expect, in part because the committee has heard so few appeals (five) that its track record (virtually no relief) is statistically insignificant.

A third question which can't be answered and which might be relevant is whether Alabama went into the appeals process with some sort of deal. If so, and remembering The University's ill-fated attempt to end the investigation through the NCAA's Summary Disposition process, it would be wise if the watchword at Rose Administration is *Caveat universitas* (Let the university beware).

It's understandable that all who had followed the developments of the NCAA investigation into Alabama's football program were stunned at the pronouncement of the Infractions Committee. The Infractions Committee, made up of individuals who do not work for the NCAA, does not investigate; that's the job of the Enforcement Staff, full-time NCAA employees. The Enforcement Staff, headed by David Berst, the independent counsel hired by The University (Bond, Schoenck & King of Overland Park, Kansas), and The University all investigated and all came to the same conclusion, a conclusion not shared by the Infractions Committee.

So how did the Infractions Committee determine "a distressing failure of institutional control," as intoned by David Swank, a law professor at Oklahoma and chairman of the committee? Maybe 1-900-PSYCHIC or perhaps a Ouija Board. Somehow the committee got into the mind of Dr. Tom Jones, Bama's faculty chairman of athletics and a member of the law faculty, and determined he was unethical. Generations of University-educated attorneys and most of the City of Tuscaloosa could be deposed as character witnesses to refute a charge of Tom Jones being unethical.

There was no dispute as to two facts of the case. Alabama self-reported Antonio Langham having been ineligible for the 1993 season (in which he played 11 games) by

virtue of his having signed a "Letter of Understanding" with an agent following Alabama's 1992 National Championship season. In the course of the on-campus NCAA investigation, it was determined that Gene Jelks, who played at Alabama from 1985 through 1989 (the year before Gene Stallings became head coach) had received loans in excess of their stated purpose (insurance) and that The University did not have proper documentation of the loans or of the insurance policies.

For the two agreed-upon violations and the one violation of unethical conduct with which, as University President Dr. Roger Sayers said, "I categorically reject..." Alabama's penalties were enormous. Sayers termed them "excessive and inappropriate" and "punitive."

In addition to a number of administrative actions (letters of reprimand, mandatory attendance at NCAA compliance seminars, etc.) the Infractions Committee put Alabama on three years probation beginning June 3, 1995; prohibited post-season competition (bowl game and the Southeastern Conference Championship Game) this year, forfeiture of eight victories and one tie in 1993, and a massive reduction in scholarships. Although there are any number of ways to figure the exact loss in the number of scholarships, Alabama was allowed to sign only 14 this year, would be able to sign only 12 in February and only 16 in February, 1997.

A school is ordinarily able to sign up to 25 new players per year and have a total of 85 on scholarship. This year and next year the Infractions Committee limited Alabama to only 81 total scholarships. Two situations cannot be factored in trying to determine the number Bama will actually have on scholarship over the next few years. Normal attrition (due to academics, quitting and injuries) and redshirting can have an effect on the overall number. However, no one has been able to show that these reductions will not drop Bama below the 85 scholarship limit for the rest of this century, and it is almost certain Tide teams of the next few years will operate with closer to 70 scholarship players than 85.

Although it wasn't a part of the penalties, it should not be forgotten that Alabama did declare Langham ineligible for competition for

the SEC Championship Game against Florida, a game the Tide lost because the Gators successfully exploited Langham's replacement, and the Gator Bowl.

It was no surprise that Dr. Sayers announced, "We will appeal." The NCAA, recognizing that the Infractions Committee is not infallible, has a procedure of appeal to the NCAA Infractions Committee, which is made up of different people than the Infractions Committee. The University has the right to appeal parts of the decision, while Dean Jones has the right to appeal individually. Both have filed notice of appeal.

On August 17 The University announced the terms of its appeal, and it was also revealed that Jones had resigned his post. Later that day at Alabama football practice, Jones said, "I don't know if I can help the team, but I sure don't want to hurt it." In truth, the resignation of Jones is not expected to have any effect on Alabama's appeal of its sanctions. Dr. Culpepper Clark, executive assistant to Sayers and the man who is spear-heading the Alabama case, announced that Alabama would appeal two of the major penalties imposed by the Infractions Committee, first the bowl ban (and with it the Southeastern Conference Championship Game), and second, the third year of the probationary penalty and the loss of nine scholarships in February, 1997. That leaves in place the Infractions Committee's penalty of the loss of scholarships this year, the loss of 13 scholarships for this upcoming February, and the forfeiture of eight victories and a tie in 1993.

The University said the basis of its appeal of the penalties is "that they are inappropriate and excessive based on the findings and conclusions of the Committee on Infractions and based on the evidence and circumstances before the Committee on Infractions." The University's primary concern is with the unexpected charge of unethical conduct by Jones, a charge The University contends is not warranted by the facts and which was not charged prior to the Infractions Committee finding The University in violation because of that charge.

The school has until mid-September to provide the specifics. The Infractions Committee also files a report, within 30 days after Alabama has filed. Alabama then has 15 days for rebuttal and the appeal will be heard at some point after that. Clark said The University will make every effort to shorten the time. The entire process could be completed in October or early November.

Clark, who will serve as interim faculty chairman of athletics, said, "Though we have heard nothing official, we have received assurances that the appeal will be done in a timely



Dr. Roger Sayers



manner so that we don't face the dilemma of having to decide whether to play (in post-season games) this year and risk post-season sanctions for next year." He said it is customary for the Infractions Appeals Committee to resolve pressing matters quickly.

The Infractions Appeals Committee may uphold the findings and penalties imposed or alter either or both. In any event, that is the final process within the NCAA. If the result of the appeal is unsatisfactory to The University and/or Jones, many believe sufficient weight of evidence exists for legal action.

While the forfeiture of games is a punitive penalty in that it is absolutely permanent (a team can eventually overcome the loss of revenue or the loss of scholarships, but games which were won on the field and then taken away after the fact are taken away forever), Alabama elected not to appeal that penalty. It has been noted that forfeiture will not affect team records other than the overall won-loss record, so things like the senior class of 1994 being the winningest four-year class in history or Jay Barker being the winningest quarterback in history are not affected. The primary effect is to make Alabama at some point this season have to win its 700th game for a second time. The forfeitures dropped Alabama from 703 all-time victories, third

highest in NCAA history, to 695 victories, tying Texas for third.

With the benefit of hindsight, no one could say that Alabama officials—Alabama Head Coach Gene Stallings, Athletics Director Cecil Ingram, Compliance Director Gary White (since retired) and Jones—did not make dreadful mistakes. However, theirs were sins of omission, not commission. The University probably should have the book thrown at it for stupidity, but the penalties for stupidity should not be as severe as those for duplicity.

Why were the penalties so preposterous?

An interesting theory from a sports reporter for a national magazine is that the Infractions Committee had found Auburn and Texas A&M guilty of major violations, penalized them, and yet they both kept winning. Therefore, the committee wanted to make sure the next school penalized didn't keep winning.

There's also the theory of a power struggle between the Enforcement Staff and the Infractions Committee. The decision by the Infractions Committee came down on Alabama, but it was also a slap in the face to Berst and his staff.

Berst and Sayers jointly signed a letter to Swank urging the Infractions Committee to accept the findings of the investigative agen-

cies as accurate and apply the recommended penalties (one year of probation without sanctions and signings this year limited to 14). The letter said, "...while mistakes were made, the evidence does not support a conclusion that the mistakes were willful or intentional, or that they represent a systemic absence of institutional control."

In the August 2 news conference announcing the findings and penalties of the Infractions Committee, the most polite description of Swank's regard for the Enforcement Staff would be "condescending," and a fair assessment would be that he (and perhaps a majority of the Infractions Committee, which reportedly voted 4-2 on the sanctions) considers the Enforcement Staff inept.

Those listening to Swank's animated reading of the charges against Alabama, and particularly of those against Jones, wondered if perhaps there was a personal antagonism between the two law professors. Jones has not spoken to the press about specifics since the announcement, but did say, "There's nothing personal between us. I've known David casually for about 12 years."

There is also the "Arrogance Theory." If Ingram and Stallings were charged with arrogance, both would have to throw themselves on the mercy of the court. But arrogance is not an NCAA violation, and, presumably, the Infractions Committee did not base its findings on personality traits. (If it had, Jones would have been dismissed from the case with apologies from the committee.)

"They wanted heads" theorists believe Alabama could have avoided many of the penalties had there been changes, most specifically a change in athletics director. Maybe so and maybe not, but Sayers drew that line in the sand early. He was not firing anyone. Swank, who did discuss hypothetically that Alabama would have been given only a minor penalty for Langham had his ineligibility been reported promptly, said he wouldn't speculate on the hypothetical question as to whether The University's case would have been helped by Ingram being fired.

And at no point did Alabama consider itself "above the rules." Alabama has one of the nation's most enviable records of NCAA compliance. This was the NCAA's first investigation of the Crimson Tide program. Alabama has been among the nation's most successful teams while playing by the rules. And Alabama did not dispute its failings when this investigation was complete.

However, who would suggest that the Infractions Committee played fair? The most serious charge against Alabama, the violation of ethical conduct by Jones, was made at the same time Alabama was found guilty of the offense by the committee. Alabama had no opportunity to defend itself against this allegation.

Now The University goes hat in hand before another NCAA committee seeking justice. On the surface, Alabama has a very strong case. Still, why is it hard to be buoyed with confidence?



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# The Recruiting Game Goes On

by Kirk McNair

Lower limits means being more selective in search for prospects

Alabama Head Football Coach Gene Stallings noted at the first practice of the year, a newcomers only workout with 14 players on August 8, that it was the first time he could remember working with a team that didn't have a quarterback. Alabama's limited recruiting class did not include a quarterback save Steven Stanley, who was ticketed for the secondary.

"I like to recruit the best athletes regardless of position," Stallings said, "but with the limits we're under now we'll have to change that a little."

Barring some relief on appeal, Alabama football recruiters will have to be very selective in the next couple of years. In February the Tide will be allowed to sign just 12 new players, and a year later just 16.

What will Alabama look for in its 1996 recruiting class? Almost certainly linemen will dominate. Bama is going to need defensive and offensive linemen. A look down the roster road also shows there will be a need for help at tight end and linebacker. And the Tide will also need to sign a quarterback in the next year or two. In truth, there's no position where a team can afford to get caught short, so Tide coaches will have to examine class-based depth charts before making decisions.

Fortunately, the NCAA sanctions aren't the type that ordinarily hurt recruiting (except that Bama is crushed by the low numbers). The players Alabama will be recruiting the next two years won't miss a bowl game or a television appearance because of sanctions, and those are the two key items that can wreck a school's recruiting.

Indeed, Alabama can go to prospects and show them they are among the elite, the chosen few good enough to be

Crimson Tiders with restricted signing limits. And Tide coaches will also be able to show these prospects that the lowered squad limits offer a better chance for early playing time.

Here are some top players who have indicated an interest in Alabama. Tide coaches may or may not be interested in these, and the Bama recruiters are almost certain to know of others who have an interest in playing for Alabama. However, these are all among the top-ranked prospects for the upcoming recruiting season.

Linemen—From Alabama, Colin Sears of Russellville, Kenny Smith of Stevenson North Jackson, Cole Cubellic of Homewood, Seneca Knight of Alexander City Benjamin Russell, Eric Chappell of Montgomery Carver, Ezell Powell of Georgiana, Matt Brennan of Mobile UMS-Wright, and Kelvis White of Courtland. Out-of-state, Alcender Jackson of Moss Point, Mississippi; Jamie Carter of Philadelphia (Mississippi) Neshoba Central; Larry Mathis of Taylorsville, Mississippi; Terry Jolley of Fort Valley (Georgia) Peach County; Anthony Overstreet of Atlanta Douglas; Adam Joyner of Milton, Florida; Thaddeus Bullard of Live Oak (Florida) Suwannee; Leon Hires of Bradenton (Florida) Manatee; brothers Josh and Michah Webb of Turlock, California; and Chad Thacker of Longmont (Colorado) Centarus.

Tight ends—From Alabama, Gorman Thornton of Montgomery Jeff Davis, Joey Duplan of Mobile Murphy, and Jevaris Johnson of Anniston. From out-of-state, Rufus French of Amory, Mississippi.

Linebackers—From Alabama, James Pitts of Phenix City Central. From out-of-state, Darryl Owens of Jackson (Mississippi) Provine; Robby Staten of Pearl, Mississippi; Jamie Fair of Athens (Georgia) Cedar Shoals; and Carleton Bexley of Carrollton, Georgia.

Other athletes under consideration are:

From Alabama, defensive back Tim Bowens of Killen Brooks, quarterback Tellie Embry of Sylacauga B.B. Comer, wide receiver David Hill of Eufaula, quarterback Brad Knight of Millbrook

Stanhope Elmore, quarterback Tammaurice Martin of Mobile Williamson, defensive back Shawn McCorkle of Dothan Northview, and quarterback Ramon Posey of Birmingham Woodlawn.

From out-of-state, quarterback Darryl Carter of Laurel (Mississippi) Northeast Jones; wide receiver Jay Johnson of Starkville, Mississippi; fullback Reggie Morris of Batesville (Mississippi) South Panola; defensive back Gerald Griffin of Murfreesboro (Tennessee) Riverdale; running back Patrick Pass of Tucker, Georgia; defensive back Cory Robinson of Tucker, Georgia; and defensive back Robert Pollard of Orange Park, Florida.

The NCAA has plans to toughen restrictions on the use of junior college transfers to help a college football or men's basketball program. The NCAA Council has proposed legislation whereby junior college graduates who were academically ineligible for Division I play out of high school will have to sit out a year after transferring to college. The Council also voted to sponsor legislation to prohibit the use of correspondence courses to meet the transfer requirements for two-year students.

The legislation will be voted on by the nearly 300 Division I schools at the NCAA meeting in January.

A news release issued by the Council said:

"The mandatory redshirt year legislation comes primarily in response to lower graduation rates among transfers in those sports (football and men's basketball). The year in residence would ensure that the student-athlete could adjust to the academic demands of the four-year college before adding the pressure of competing in a high-profile sport."

Alabama is thought to be involved with several junior college football prospects for the upcoming signing period, including Mississippians:

Defensive tackle Grady Jackson and defensive end Michael Myers of Hinds and defensive lineman Cletidus Hunt, wide receiver Terrence Samuels and running back John Avery, all of Northwest.



# Expectations Rise in Year Two

by Donna Fromme

**After a surprisingly good first season, soccer faces increased competition**

Being an immediate hit has its downside. At least, that's what Alabama Soccer Coach Don Staley believes.

Staley defied all odds a year ago when he took an infant women's soccer program and led it to anything but expected first-year program results. Alabama opened with a seven-game winning streak and by season's end was in the thick of the battle for the Southeastern Conference title. The final tally was a record of 13 wins, five losses and one tie (the tie coming against Auburn in a match that took place in a downpour).

With each win Staley's team was showing the college soccer world that Alabama was no fluke. Staley was voted Southeastern Conference Coach of the Year and two of his players, goalie Amy Pseja and striker Taylor Eubank, were selected to the All-SEC team.

A typical first-year program this was not.

Now Staley knows that expectations will be higher. The season opens September 2 in Dallas against SMU.

"Last year there was just so much excitement around the program," Staley said. "I didn't have time to be nervous. We were a first-year team. The expectations were low. Fortunately, we proved them wrong. But there may also be a downside to that success. Because we got off the blocks as quickly as we did last year, starting off with the 7-0 record, the expectations of this team are so much higher.

"When I came here, I had a three to five year plan for this program. Last year we maybe got ahead of ourselves. This year we are playing a really difficult schedule. I made it that way on purpose. I think it's important to the long term success of this program to give our girls the opportunity to play, game in and out, against the best teams in the country. I want to give them a consistent diet of top 20 teams. That's what's going to pay off in the long run." Among that schedule is the Tide's October 29 date-Duke University. Alabama plays 1992's national runner-up in Durham at high noon.

As his strategy might indicate, Staley is an overachiever. The naysayers might have believed Alabama would struggle. But all along

Staley, who collected his 200th career coaching win last October, was determined to do exactly what he did in 1994: make an immediate impact.

"Honestly, this coach goes into every single game he plays expecting to win," said Staley. "If you don't, you're in the wrong profession. Last season everything happened so fast. I'd be lying if I didn't say I looked at the schedule before that season started and thought we'd have a lot less wins than we did. But when we took off those first games of the season, I looked at my assistant coaches and said that we had a good chance of being a good team. We could tell early on that this wasn't an average first-year team."



Don Staley

Much in the picture changes this season as Alabama begins year two. The most noticeable change will perhaps take place within the SEC. Last season Alabama (2-1-1) finished second of five teams, falling short of long-established Vanderbilt's perfect 4-0 league regular season record. But Gender Equity works its way into the 1995 season. The league will double in size in the number of schools who have added soccer teams this year. Alabama, Vanderbilt, Auburn, Arkansas and Kentucky will be joined this season by teams from Florida, Georgia, LSU, Ole Miss, Mississippi State and South Carolina. In 1996, Tennessee will join the fray.

"Things will be very different this year. The SEC is going to have six new Alabama types, teams which are going to want to jump in and succeed right away. Everyone in this league is committed to its program. No one on the schedule is a 'gimmie.' No doubt, hard work paid off for us last season, but we were also lucky in some games. That's the nature of sports. I wouldn't mind having some of that luck this year."

Staley expects Vanderbilt to continue its dominance, but he believes soccer in the SEC will quickly go the way of every other league sport. It's just a matter of time before these teams are all national powers.

"Vandy is the team to beat, but even first-

year teams like Florida and LSU did a great job recruiting," Staley said. "Top to bottom this year, it's a very balanced league. Vandy made SEC history last year when it went to nationals for the first time. Perhaps this year we'll get two teams in the tournament. This is going to be a conference to be respected in women's soccer. I think there are some extremely talented coaches in this league and the sky's the limit for us."

Alabama's coach has spent the past year reloading, a process that was worlds easier than it was in late December of 1993 when Tide Athletics Director Cecil "Hootie" Ingram called and offered him the chance to start Alabama soccer.

"We got out and hit the ground running," said Staley who brought his Radford assistant, Karen McGrath, someone he describes as a shrewd talent evaluator, with him to Alabama. "By that time, most of the biggest recruits have already committed. Then we only had one big first class recruiting tournament to pick a team. This year my assistants and I have had a chance to get out and recruit the top players in the country. In order for us to compete at big-time national level, we have to get these top caliber players. But the greatest thing I've noticed this year is that we're making it into the living rooms of these top recruits, and, even though we are a new program, these recruits are listing Alabama as one of their top 10 choices—this is for a player who is recruited by as many as 200 schools. We're in the hunt. And with each year's success, that's only going to get better."

As Staley prepares for his September 2 season opener, it will perhaps be that trip that will allow him his first real breather. After spending his second summer without taking a vacation, he'll have the ten-hour bus drive to Dallas to perhaps pause and smile at how far he has come so quickly at Alabama.

"I really haven't had time to sit down and savor it," he says. "I'm looking forward to the next year, to this upcoming season. We were grateful for the honors we received last season. If everything falls into place for Taylor and Amy again this year, we could see similar honors for them this upcoming season. Both kids were honored to have been selected last year, but I know they would have traded those honors for an SEC Championship. I know I would have traded my 'Coach of the Year' award for an SEC title. I think it's going to be another interesting year. I can't wait to see how it all turns out."



# Crimson Tide Fall Schedules

## Women's Soccer

Date	Opponent	Time
Sept. 2	@ Southern Methodist	2 p.m.
Sept. 3	Washington @ Dallas	2 p.m.
Sept. 8	Georgia	4 p.m.
Sept. 15	@ Texas A&M	5:30 p.m.
Sept. 17	@ Texas	2 p.m.
Sept. 22	@ Mississippi State	4 p.m.
Sept. 24	@ Ole Miss	2 p.m.
Sept. 27	@ North Carolina-Charlotte	6 p.m.
Sept. 29	Southeast Louisiana	4 p.m.
Oct. 1	Arkansas-Little Rock	12 noon
Oct. 4	@ Auburn	4 p.m.
Oct. 10	Ole Miss	4 p.m.
Oct. 14	Arkansas	12 noon
Oct. 15	LSU	1 p.m.
Oct. 17	@ South Alabama	7 p.m.
Oct. 20	@ Central Florida	3 p.m.
Oct. 22	@ Florida	2 p.m.
Oct. 24	@ Georgia Southern	2 p.m.
Oct. 27	@ North Carolina-Greensboro	6 p.m.
Oct. 29	@ Duke	12 noon
Nov. 2-5	SEC Tournament @ Auburn	TBA

all times central

## Men's & Women's Cross Country

Date	Event
Sept. 8	Tulane Invitational @ New Orleans
Sept. 15	Crimson Classic @ Tuscaloosa
Sept. 30	Auburn Invitational @ Auburn
Oct. 6	Notre Dame Invitational @ South Bend
Oct. 14	Pre-National Invitational @ Ames, Iowa
Oct. 28	SEC Championships @ Orlando
Nov. 11	NCAA District @ Greenville, S.C.
Nov. 20	NCAA Championships @ Ames, Iowa

## Women's Volleyball

Date	Opponent	Time
Crimson Tide Classic @ Foster Auditorium		
Sept. 1	St. Louis	1 p.m.
Sept. 1	Miami of Ohio	7 p.m.
Sept. 2	Austin Peay	1 p.m.
Sept. 2	Stephen F. Austin	7 p.m.
Sept. 5	Georgia State	2 p.m.
Big Orange Bash @ Clemson, S.C.		
Sept. 8	Eastern Kentucky	5 p.m.
Sept. 9	Texas-Arlington	12 noon
Sept. 9	Clemson	6 p.m.
Sept. 12	Troy State	3 p.m.
Sept. 12	Alabama State	7 p.m.
Tulane Invitational @ New Orleans		
Sept. 15	Middle Tennessee	TBA
Sept. 15	Tulane	7:30 p.m.
Sept. 16	Nicholls State	11 a.m.
Sept. 16	Central Florida	4 p.m.
Sept. 22	@ Arkansas	7 p.m.
Sept. 24	@ LSU	2 p.m.
Sept. 27	South Alabama	7 p.m.
Sept. 29	Tennessee	7 p.m.
Oct. 1	Kentucky	2 p.m.
Oct. 3	Southern Miss	7 p.m.
Oct. 6	@ Georgia	7:30 p.m.
Oct. 13	Florida	7 p.m.
Oct. 15	South Carolina	2 p.m.
Oct. 18	Samford	7 p.m.
Oct. 20	Ole Miss	7 p.m.
Oct. 22	Mississippi State	2 p.m.
Oct. 27	LSU	7 p.m.
Oct. 29	Arkansas	2 p.m.
Nov. 1	@ Auburn	7 p.m.
Nov. 5	Auburn	2 p.m.
Nov. 10	@ Mississippi State	7 p.m.
Nov. 12	@ Ole Miss	2 p.m.

Nov. 17-19 SEC Tournament @ Baton Rouge TBA

all times central

## Women's Tennis

Date	Event
Sept. 22-24	Roberta Alison Fall Classic
Sept. 29-Oct. 1	Lady Seminole @ Tallahassee, Fla.
Oct. 13-15	@ Clearwater (Fla.) Collegiate
Oct. 17-22	All-American @ Los Angeles
Oct. 20-22	@ San Destin (Fla.) Invitational
Oct. 26-29	SEC Fall Tournament @ TBA
Nov. 3-6	ITA Regional @ Athens, Ga.

## Men's Tennis

Date	Event
Sept. 25-Oct. 1	National Clay Courts @ Jackson, Miss.
Oct. 6-8	USL Invitational @ Lafayette, La.
Oct. 13-15	Crimson Tide Classic
Oct. 16-22	All-American @ Austin, Texas
Oct. 26-29	FSU Fall Classic @ Tallahassee, Fla.
Nov. 2-5	Region III Indoors @ Nashville

## Women's Golf

Date	Event
Sept. 22-24	Auburn Lady Tiger @ Auburn
Sept. 29-Oct. 1	Lady Tar Heel @ Chapel Hill, N.C.
Oct. 1	Lady Paladin @ Greenville, S.C.
Oct. 20-22	Cudone Invitational @ Myrtle Beach

## Men's Golf

Date	Event
Oct. 1-2	Tournament Of Champions @ Knoxville
Oct. 16-17	Red River Classic @ Dallas
Oct. 22-24	Jerry Pate Invitational @ Shoal Creek, Birmingham
Oct. 30-31	Louisiana Intercollegiate @ Baton Rouge

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# BAMA SCORECARD

## Top Choice

A scouting combine has rated the top 50 senior prospects for the 1996 National Football League draft and only one Alabama player made the list. And it's not one that might have been expected. Defensive tackle Shannon Brown and placekicker Michael Proctor have been Bama's most-noted players in this pre-season, followed by the likes of split end Curtis Brown, defensive tackle Matt Parker, flanker Toderick Malone and middle linebacker John Walters.

However, the combine said one of the top 50 NFL prospects in the nation is Bama defensive end Kendrick Burton, a 6-5, 288-pounder. Although Burton is one of several bracketed on the first unit at defensive end, he has started only two Tide games.

## Butkus Choices

Two Alabama football players, strongside linebacker Ralph Staten and weakside linebacker Dwayne Rudd, have been named to the Butkus Award Watch List. The Downtown Athletic Club of Orlando, Florida, selects the top linebacker in the nation each year for presentation of the Butkus Award. The Watch List includes the top 62 linebackers in the nation.

That list will be trimmed to semifinalists on October 19 and three finalists will be named November 16. The winner will be announced Saturday, December 9.

## Stamp Of Approval

The one-man campaign of Alabama fan Bob Cloud, with an assist from the 1994 Congressional election, has paid off with the announcement that in 1997 the Postal Service will issue a commemorative stamp honoring former Alabama Head Football Coach Paul Bryant.

Cloud gathered thousands of names on petitions in support of the stamp. When the Republicans took control of the Senate following the '94 elections, Alabama Senator Richard Shelby switched from the Democratic Party to the Republican Party and was made chairman of the Senate Subcommittee on Appropriations, which oversees the Postal Service. While Postmaster General Marvin Runyon said Shelby's position had no effect on the selection of Bryant to be honored (Runyon did joke that it didn't hurt that Bryant was a former coach at Runyon's alma mater, Texas A&M), Shelby didn't say that.

Other members of the Alabama congressional delegation, including Democratic Senator Howell Heflin, also pushed for the stamp, which will be part of a four-stamp collection of great American sports coaches, the other three to be named later.

The final determination for the Bryant stamp design will be made by the Postal Service.

## Basketball Signee?

Has Alabama men's basketball signed another player? Coach Mario Cumberlander at

Russell County High School in Seale said that Bama inked his star guard from 1994-95, but there has been no official announcement from The University.

Cumberlander said that Alabama signed Cleotis Brown, a 6-3 guard who averaged 26 points, seven rebounds and five assists in leading Russell County to a 17-10 record in 5A play. Brown was a two-year starter who played both point and wing guard spots and whom Cumberlander thinks projects as a wing player. Brown hit 42 per cent of his three-point shots and 81 per cent of his free throws.

It was announced earlier that Alabama had signed guards Brian Williams of Montgomery Jeff Davis and Anton Reese of Lithonia, Georgia, and inside players Thalamus McGhee of Trinity Valley Community College in Texas and M.C. Mazique of New York.

## Basketball Prospects

Summertime is basketball camp time, and all of the nation's major prospects are in various camps around the nation being watched by college coaches and recruiting analysts.

Van Coleman is one of the best of the recruiting analysts. In his *Future Stars* publication he lists a handful of these top prospects who say that Alabama is among the schools in which they are interested. Upcoming senior high school basketball players listing Alabama include:

Brian Adams, 6-6, small forward, Piney Woods, Mississippi; Sanjay Adell, 6-6, small forward, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, Messmer; Desmond Baxter, 6-2, point guard, Port St. Joe, Florida; Anthony Dent, 6-9, power forward, Edison, Georgia, Calhoun County; Lester Earl, 6-9, power forward, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, Glen Oaks; Eugene Edgeron, 6-7, power forward, New Orleans, Louisiana, St. Augustine; Roderick Murray, 6-7, power forward, Montgomery Jeff Davis; Julius Robinson, 6-2, point guard, Selma; and Jermaine Walker, 6-8, power forward, Pompano Beach, Florida, Ely.

## Basketball Schedule

The 1995-96 Alabama men's basketball schedule features 10 teams who participated in post-season tournaments, seven in the NCAA Tournament and three in the NIT. Four of those NCAA participants are conference opponents (Arkansas, Kentucky, Mississippi State and Florida) and two of the three 1995 NIT participants are also from the SEC (Auburn and Georgia) and Bama also meets Southern Miss. Alabama's other opponents who made it to the 1995 NCAA Tournament are Syracuse, Tulane and St. Peter's, which the Tide will play in the first round of the Cessna Classic in Wichita, Kansas.

Included in the 26-game schedule are nine televised games, including CBS match-ups against Mississippi State and Syracuse. Games against Arkansas and Kentucky will be on ESPN, while the other televised games will be regional broadcasts.

The schedule also has the usual Alabama diet of name lightweights in Winthrop, North Texas, Tennessee Tech, Mercer and Florida A&M.

Bama will have home exhibition games November 8 and November 17 before opening play against Winthrop in Coleman Coliseum November 25.

## Women's Coaches

Alabama Head Women's Basketball Coach Rick Moody had barely filled one position at Alabama when another opening occurred.

Moody selected former Alabama men's team walk-on Jeff Lovell as his restricted earnings assistant coach, but now must find a replacement for his top assistant. In a surprising move, Sherri Smelser resigned her position in mid-August. She had been a member of the Bama staff for 13 years.

Smelser joined the staff as a graduate assistant in 1982 under former Coach Ken Weeks, stayed on when Weeks was replaced by Lois Myers in 1985, and has been with Moody since 1990. She and Moody were assistants together at Alabama from 1982 through 1984.

"There's no question that Sherri has been a steadying force for this program for many years," Moody said. "She has been one of the key components in the success of the program and has always represented The University with class and integrity. Not only has she been an outstanding coach, but Sherri has also been a very dear friend. We wish her success in her future endeavors. She'll always be a part of the Alabama family."

Lovell, who transferred to Alabama from Wallace State Community College and played for the Tide in 1992 and 1993 (winning the team's Hustle Award both years), spent last year as a graduate assistant at West Alabama. He was a dean's list student at The University, where he earned his degree in sports fitness management. He will be involved in coaching, recruiting, scouting and academics.

## Big Loss

All-SEC center Yolanda Watkins suffered a torn anterior cruciate ligament in her right knee in a summer pick-up basketball game and is expected to miss the 1995-96 season for Coach Rick Moody's Crimson Tide. She injured the knee July 12, but delayed surgery until August 14 after completing a summer school class.

The upcoming senior (who has not been redshirted) averaged 16 points and 9.2 rebounds for Alabama last year. The former "National High School Player of the Year" was one of only two starters returning to this year's team. Sophomore point guard Brittney Ezell is now the only returning starter.

## Another Loss

The recruiting news for Moody is also bad. One of the Tide's top signees, LaDonna Woodson of Shelbyville, Tennessee, has

BAMA, Inside The Crimson Tide/SEPTEMBER '95



elected not to attend Alabama this year. Reports from Tennessee are that she will attend a junior college in her hometown.

#### Winning Coach

Rick Moody had his first experience as a head coach in the United States Olympic Festival in Denver this summer and Bama's head women's basketball coach led his East team to the gold medal.

#### Good Summer

Former Alabama swimming All-America Jon Olsen, who now swims for former Bama Coach Jonty Skinner as a member of the United States Resident National Team, has had a productive summer. Olsen won the 50 and 100 freestyle events at the United States National Championships. As a member of the U.S. National Team in the Pan-Pacific Championships held in Atlanta he was a member of the 400-meter freestyle relay team that set a world record and won a gold medal and he won the silver medal in the 100 freestyle.

#### World Gamer

Alabama Head Volleyball Coach Dorothy Franco-Reed won't have her all-star middle blocker, Nina Foster, when the Tide opens the season hosting the Crimson Tide Classic September 1. That's because Foster, last year's SEC Freshman of the Year and All-SEC, was selected to the 12-player USA team for the 1995 World University Games. The sophomore was the youngest player (by two years) selected to the squad, which is playing in Fukuoka, Japan, through September 2. Foster is the first Alabama volleyball player to be chosen for a national team. She is expected to return in time for Bama's first road match, the Big Orange Bash at Clemson beginning September 8.

#### Fall Baseball

Alabama Head Baseball Coach Jim Wells will put his team on the field for fall practice—the closest thing college ball has to professional baseball's spring training—September 25. Practices, which are open, will conclude either Sunday, October 22, or Sunday, October 29 (depending on weather). There will be intrasquad games each Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Friday scrimmages begin about 3 p.m., Saturday games will work around Bama football kickoff times and Sunday games will begin at 1:30 p.m.

#### Tennis Assistant

Alabama Head Tennis Coach Joey Rive didn't have to look far to find an assistant for this year. Chuck Coleman, an All-America from Notre Dame, is in his third year of law school at Alabama. Coleman, a Lake Wylie, South Carolina, native who prepped at The Baylor School in Chattanooga, was an All-America in doubles in 1991 and 1992 and an All-America in singles his senior year in 1993.

#### Candidates For Fame

One of the greatest football players in Alabama history is finally being considered for inclusion into the Alabama Sports Hall of Fame. Eddie Salem, the only Alabama player

to earn All-America recognition under Coach Red Drew, was an all-star halfback in the Notre Dame box formation for the Tide from 1947 through 1950. As a sophomore he starred in the renewal of the Alabama-Auburn game as he completed eight of 10 passes in Bama's 55-0 win.

He's one of eight with Crimson Tide ties among this year's nominees. Salem, Johnny Wozniak, captain of the 1947 Bama football team and an All-America guard, and Hal Self, who was the quarterback (or blocking back in the Notre Dame box) for the 1941-42 and 1944-45 Tide football teams and the Jacobs Award winner as the SEC's best blocker in 1945, are nominated in the Old Timers category, which is for those whose careers ended 40 or more years back or who are 70 years old. Two of the 11 nominees will be inducted.

In category 1, which is former football, basketball and baseball players, the Tide has four nominees, basketball stars Leon Douglas and T. R. Dunn and football greats Scott Hunter and Butch Wilson. Douglas was the most valuable player in the SEC and an All-America in 1975-76. Dunn was an All-America in 1977 and went on to a sterling NBA career with the Denver Nuggets. Hunter, who quarterbacked Bama from 1968-70, set most of the Alabama passing records that were broken last year by Jay Barker, and still holds a few Tide marks. Wilson was a starting halfback for the Tide 1960-62 and won the Jacobs Award. Two of the 16 nominated in this category will be elected.

Group 2, which has 14 nominees with two to be elected, is for athletes in all other sports and for sports administrators and media. Among the nominees is Alabama Associate Athletics Director Don Gambrill, who is nominated for his extraordinary success as a swim coach for the Crimson Tide and for the United States Olympics Team.

#### All-American Awards

It's no surprise when Paul Bryant receives an award, even though it has been over a decade since his retirement and death. The All-American Football Foundation, which is headquartered in Jackson, Mississippi, had its annual Banquet of Champions in Biloxi in August and Bryant received the foundation's Frank Leahy Coach of the Year Award.

The foundation also presents awards in numerous other categories related to athletics. Among those receiving awards as Assistant Football Coaches who made a difference are former Tide aides Ken Donahue and Paul Davis.

Charley Thornton was honored as one of the nation's all-time top sports information directors. Additionally, Alabama graduate and retired *Birmingham Post-Herald* sports editor Bill Lumpkin was honored in the field of sports media.

#### Amateur Qualifiers

Two Alabama golfers qualified for the United States Amateur, played the last week of August at Newport (Rhode Island) Country Club. Upcoming senior Mayson Petty of Tuscaloosa and recently-graduated Greg Letson of Florence were to play in the tournament.

Alabama has produced 16 players for the Amateur, including '74 champion Jerry Pate.

#### Early Fame

*National Golfer* has regional publications. The August/September issue of the Georgia regional edition has an article on LPGA star Caroline Peek of Rome. The article notes:

"Peek's legacy in the Rome area first went public when she was a Little League baseball player, the only girl on an all-boys league. At the plate she faced pitcher Brian Burgdorf, later a Cedartown quarterback who is now the number one signal-caller at The University of Alabama.

"The baby girl of the Peek family hit a home run. 'It wasn't that big a deal,' she grinned."

#### Shallow

*USA Today* is considered by many to be to real newspapers about what "Hard Copy" is to "The CBS Evening News." A columnist for *USA Today* commenting on the NCAA sanctions against Alabama reached into his imagination. Tom Weir wrote that when former Tide Head Coach Paul Bryant took over at Alabama in 1958 he said, "Our game plan is, first year, a .500 season. Second year, a conference championship. Third year, undefeated. Fourth year, a national championship. And by the fifth year, we'll be on probation, of course."

Unfortunately, when a lie is printed it tends to become the truth. The fictitious statement was also picked up by a commentator for ESPN, the sports cable television network, and probably by other columnists around the country.

#### Still Number One

A poll by the *Mobile Register* and the University of South Alabama claims that Alabama football fans in the state are diminishing, while supporters of Auburn University are on the rise, but Bama is still the clear number one choice in the state.

According to the poll, which was conducted by a survey of 400 of the state's 4 million residents and which purports to have a margin of error of 5 per cent, the per cent of Alabamians calling the Crimson Tide their favorite team fell from 59 per cent in 1994 to 49 per cent this year. Those favoring Auburn rose from 24 per cent to 30 per cent in the same span. (In raw numbers the poll showed 196 of the 400 favored Bama, 120 favored Auburn and 84 had no choice or another choice).

#### Pre-Game

One thing that won't change about this football season is the National Alumni Association's pre-game plans. The association has pre-game events on the Quad before all home games and special events before all road games. There will also be a pep rally in Five Points South in Birmingham Friday night before the Tennessee game.

The first event of the year is a tailgate party starting at 4:30 p.m. Saturday, September 2, in the parking lot of the Holiday Inn-Vanderbilt near the stadium.

For complete information contact the National Alumni Association in Tuscaloosa, (205) 348-5963.

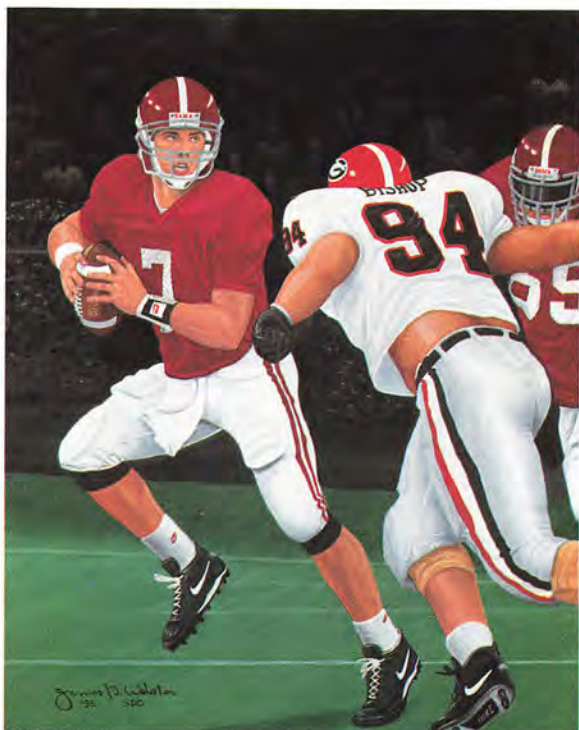


# Alabama's 1995 Football Opponents' Schedules

Team	Sept. 2	Sept. 9	Sept. 16	Sept. 23	Sept. 30	Oct. 7	Oct. 14	Oct. 21	Oct. 28	Nov. 4	Nov. 11	Nov. 18	Nov. 25
<b>VANDERBILT</b> Commodores Nashville, Tenn.	ALABAMA 7 ODT		@ Notre Dame	TCU	Arkansas		Georgia	@ South Carolina	@ Ole Miss	Kentucky	Louisiana Tech	@ Florida	@ Tennessee
<b>SOUTHERN MISS</b> Golden Eagles Hattiesburg, Miss.	Northern Illinois	@ ALABAMA (Birmingham) 2:30 CDT	@ Utah St.	@ Indiana	Tulane	Louisville	@ Cincinnati		East Carolina	@ Tennessee	@ Memphis	@ Southwest Louisiana	
<b>ARKANSAS</b> Razorbacks Fayetteville, Ark.	@ SMU	South Carolina	@ ALABAMA (Tuscaloosa) 11:30 (JF)	Memphis @ Little Rock	@ Vanderbilt	Tennessee	Ole Miss @ Memphis		Auburn	Mississippi State	Southwest Louisiana		@ LSU
<b>GEORGIA</b> Bulldogs Athens, Ga.	South Carolina	@ Tennessee	New Mexico State	@ Ole Miss	ALABAMA	@ Clemson	@ Vanderbilt	Kentucky	Florida		Auburn		Nov. 23 @ Georgia Tech
<b>NORTH CAROLINA STATE</b> Wolfpack Raleigh, N.C.	Marshall	Virginia	@ FSU	Baylor	Clemson	@ ALABAMA (Tuscaloosa) 2:30 CDT		@ Duke		Maryland	@ Georgia Tech	@ Wake Forest	Nov. 24 North Carolina
<b>TENNESSEE</b> Volunteers Knoxville, Tenn.	East Carolina	Georgia	@ Florida	Mississippi State	Oklahoma State	@ Arkansas	@ ALABAMA (Birmingham)		South Carolina	Southern Miss		@ Kentucky	Vanderbilt
<b>OLE MISS</b> Rebels Oxford, Miss.	@ Auburn	Indiana State		Georgia	@ Florida	Tulane	Arkansas @ Memphis	ALABAMA 2 CDT	Vanderbilt	@ Memphis	@ LSU		@ Mississippi State
<b>NORTH TEXAS</b> Eagles Denton, Texas	@ Missouri	Kansas @ Irving	Oregon State	@ Oklahoma		@ Nevada- Reno	UAB	@ LSU	@ ALABAMA (Tuscaloosa) 2:30 CDT	@ UNLV	Idaho State	@ Louisville	
<b>LSU</b> Fighting Tigers Baton Rouge, La.	@ Texas A&M	@ Mississippi State	Auburn	Rice	@ South Carolina	Florida	@ Kentucky	North Texas		@ ALABAMA (Tuscaloosa)	Ole Miss		Arkansas
<b>MISSISSIPPI STATE</b> Bulldogs Starkville, Miss.	Memphis	LSU	Baylor	@ Tennessee	Northeast Louisiana	Nov. 5 @ Auburn	South Carolina		Kentucky	Arkansas @ Little Rock	@ ALABAMA (Tuscaloosa)		Ole Miss
<b>AUBURN</b> Tigers Auburn, Ala.	Ole Miss	Chattanooga	@ LSU		@ Kentucky	Nov. 5 Mississippi State	Florida	Western Michigan	Arkansas @ Little Rock	Northeast Louisiana	@ Georgia	ALABAMA	



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